



BLANGAH RISE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Dear Parents/Guardians,

With the Paris 2024 Summer Olympics just about a month away, I like to share a remarkable true story that perhaps will encourage all of us in the new term and semester ahead:

Eric Moussambani, a 22 year-old swimmer from Equatorial Guinea, made headlines during the 2000 Sydney Olympics. His journey to the Games was remarkable: just 12 months before, he had never left his home country, where most citizens lived on less than a dollar a day. With the help of a wild card entry, he secured a spot in the Olympics.

Despite having no coach, lanes, or proper training facilities, Moussambani taught himself to swim. His only practice pool was a local hotel's 13-meter pool, available for just three hours a week between 5 and 6 am. Before Sydney, he had never seen an Olympic-sized pool, let alone swum in one.

His training was further hampered by a communication breakdown that led him to believe he had been entered into the 50m race, not the 100m race he would actually be competing in. During the qualifying heat, Moussambani was the only swimmer not disqualified for a false start. He found himself swimming alone, against the clock, in front of 17,000 spectators to be in with a chance of qualifying for the final. Despite flagging in the second half of the race, he completed it with a time of 1 minute and 53 seconds —the slowest time in Olympic history but a personal best.

When he was interviewed, still dripping from his exhausting feat, Moussambani remarked; "The first 50 metres were OK, but in the second 50 metres I got a bit worried and thought I wasn't going to make it. Then something happened. I think it was all the people getting behind me. I was really, really proud. It's still a great feeling for me and I loved when everyone applauded me at the end. I felt like I had won a medal or something."

International media dubbed him "Eric the eel", celebrating his embodiment of the Olympic spirit, that participation matters more than winning. Eric Moussambani later became the coach of the national swimming squad of Equatorial Guinea. His story remains an inspiring testament to determination and courage in the face of overwhelming odds.

There will always be challenging work that come our way. If the focus is only on what we get for our time and effort, we may miss the whole learning experience and the many unexpected doors of opportunities that are open for us.

In this new semester, let's encourage our children to do their best in their challenges – because participation matters more than winning ... and we will all be there cheering them on!

1. Upcoming Events in Term 3

DATE	EVENT	REMARKS
24 to 26 June	P5 Robotics with Junior Achievement (JA) Singapore – Fun with AR / VR Coding	During Curriculum Time
26, 28 June 3 July	Robotics Cue Workshop with Junior Achievement (JA) Singapore	2 pm to 4 pm For selected P5 and P6 students
27 June	P6: Learning Journey to Sungei Buloh Wetland Reserves	During Curriculum Time
24 June 8, 15, 22, 29 July 5, 12, 19, 26 August	After School Enrichment Programme (ASEP): Aesthetics	2.45 to 4.30 pm
2, 9, 16, 30 July 6, 20, 27 August	ASEP Choir	3.30 to 5 pm
1 July	School Holiday - Youth Day	
6 July (Saturday)	National Education Show	For P5 students only. Please refer to details which will be shared via Parents Gateway.
2 to 5 July	P4 Young Photographers	During Curriculum Time Please refer to details to be shared via Parents Gateway
2, 30 July	Delta House Practice	3.15 pm to 4.45 pm For P3 to P6 students
2 to 4 July	P1 Phase 1 Registration	
4 July	Annual Mathlympics	2 pm to 4 pm For selected P4 and P5 students
4 July 1 August	Gillman House Practice	3.15 pm to 4.45 pm For P3 to P6 students
5, 12 July 2, 23 August	APEX – EL: Debate	2 pm to 3.30 pm
5, 12 and 19 July 2, 23 August	APEX – EL: Writing	2 pm to 3.30 pm
5, 12 July 2, 23 August	APEX – EL: Scrabble	2 pm to 3.30 pm
12 July	STEM Day	During Curriculum Time
8 to 19 July	Mother Tongue Language Fortnight	During Mother Tongue Language Lessons
8 to 12 July	Cyberwellness Week	
8 July 19 August	Junior Reporters Programme	2.30 pm to 4 pm For selected students only
9 July 6 August	Keppel House Practice	3.15 pm to 4.45 pm For P3 to P6 students
11 July 15 August	Redhill House Practice	3.15 pm to 4.45 pm For P3 to P6 students
4, 11, 18 July 1 August	APEX: Math and Science	2 pm to 3.15 pm
12 July	STEM Day	During Curriculum Time For P1 to P6 students
13 July	The Green Snapshots	Only selected student leaders who are involved
23 and 25 July	P6 Prelim Oral Examination	After Curriculum Hours
26 July	Traffic Games at Road Safety Park	During Curriculum Time For P4 students

DATE	EVENT	REMARKS
29 July to 7 August	P5 ERLA during Science Lessons	
31 July	Class Photo-taking	
8 August	National Day Celebrations	School to end at 10.30 am
9 August	Public Holiday – National Day	
13 and 14 August	PSLE Oral Exam	P1 – P5 students are not required to come to school. They will complete tasks assigned by teachers at home.
15 August	P6 Prelim Listening Comprehension	During Curriculum Time
15 August	P3 GEP Screening Exercise	
19 to 23 August	P6 Prelim Exams	
26 August 27 August	Combined Schools Choir Rehearsals	1.30 to 4.15 pm 10.15 am to 1 pm
29 August	Teachers' Day Celebrations	School to end at 10.30 am
30 August	School Holiday – Teachers' Day	
2 and 3 September	P6 Supplementary Lessons	
31 August to 8 September	Term 3 School Holiday Break	
2 – 5 September	Voices of Singapore Festival Performances	The actual two concert performance dates to be confirmed later.

2. Mother Tongue Language Fortnight

The Mother Tongue Language Fortnight (MTL Fortnight) provides our students with the platforms for experiential learning and cultural appreciation. Through engaging activities such as traditional handicraft making, language-related games and performing arts, students immerse themselves in the rich heritage of the Mother Tongue Language and its culture. Additionally, internal competitions during the Mother Tongue Language Fortnight allow students to showcase their creativity and language skillsets, further enhancing their understanding and appreciation of their respective Mother Tongue Languages and its cultures.

3. The Green Snapshots: A Nature & Heritage Trail – 10th Edition

This term, TGS marks its return with its tenth edition on 13 July 2024. Student-docents will guide participants on a learning journey to different hotspots around Telok Blangah, Mount Faber and Berlayer Creek. They will provide an in-depth and personal sharing of the history, flora and fauna of the area.

The trail is built on the school's Learning for Life Programme (LLP) – Environmental Education, which weaves nature into the curriculum and provides experiential learning activities. During the 2½-hour long guided tour, the student-docents will also share about the unique architecture and development of the area over the years, as well as engage participants in fun hands-on activities.

To sign up for the trail, please visit the school website. Participation in the trail is on a first-come, first-served basis.

4. STEM Activities

In Term 3, the school will be offering new STEM programmes designed to spark curiosity and develop essential 21C skills in our students. Our very first STEM DAY, scheduled on 12 July, will introduce students to intermediate robotics-related skills through hands-on activities, cultivating critical thinking and teamwork. Middle and Senior Primary students will get to

explore building and coding using Stick'Em, culminating in a competition at the end of the session, while Junior Primary students will get to build and program using LEGO Spike Essential.

Additionally, through our school's partnership with JA Singapore, Primary 5 students will be involved in the JA Fun with AR/VR Coding programme to create interactive applications focused on achieving UN Sustainable Development Goals, enhancing their understanding of coding and design thinking. Another programme, the Robotic Cue Workshop, in collaboration with JA Singapore, will offer a series of fun and engaging sessions on coding and robot control. This after-school enrichment programme is open to selected students and aims to develop inventive skills, problem-solving, critical thinking, creativity and resilience. These programmes aim to inspire a passion for STEM subjects and equip students with valuable skills for the future.

5. In Pursuit of a Dream

A 68-page coffee table book has been published by the school, dedicated to the 2024 Singapore Olympians and Paralympians representing the nation in Paris. The book comprises artworks and photographs reflecting the spirit of Olympism, the Olympic and Paralympic values. An overview of the SG Olympic and Paralympic journey is captured, along with notes of encouragement and examples of inspiration. The Olympians and Paralympians were presented with the book, accompanied by the wishes of the student artists. Book signing sessions were conducted with the athletes, inspiring the students to pursue their own dreams as just as the athletes are pursuing their goals at the 2024 Paris Games.

You can view the digital version of the book via this link:

<https://online.fliphtml5.com/imxpa/irby/#p=1>

6. Updates on CCA Mentoring Programme

In Semester 1, our CCA groups partnered with their respective secondary schools through the CCA Mentoring Programme, where the secondary students impart CCA skills and knowledge as well as life skills and habits to our primary students.

- Anglo Chinese School (Independent) – BRPS Badminton boys
- Raffles Girls School (RGS) – BRPS Badminton girls
- School of the Arts (SOTA) – BRPS Art & Design Club and MediaKids
- Hwa Chong Institution (HCI) – BRPS Basketball
- School of Science and Technology (SST) – BRPS STEM Club

Here are some of our students' reflection of the CCA Mentoring Programme:

- *It inspires me to do more art and expose myself to a new world to find out what type of art I like. I would recommend BRPS students to join this CCA Mentoring Program.*
- *The ACS(I) sessions has taught me how to play better and will help me in my secondary school through DSA.*
- *The people at RGS are very kind, helpful and they teach me a skill that I was struggling to do. And they thought me different ways to serve. They have inspired me to not give up so that you can achieve your goal.*

7. International Partnerships

In the upcoming Term 3, we are thrilled to continue our collaboration with East Beijing Road Primary School in China. Our P5 students will finally meet their Nanjing buddies in person after online correspondence. Forty students from East Beijing Road Primary School will join

us for a class immersion program. We are confident that the students will gain valuable insights into each other's cultures.

Additionally, we will be hosting 28 students from Pat Heung Central Primary School in Hong Kong. They will spend a day with our students, experiencing a typical school day in Singapore.

We are very excited and eagerly anticipate meeting our new friends from China and Hong Kong.

8. 2024 Primary One Registration Exercise (For Admission to Primary One in 2025)

The registration of children for admission to P1 classes in 2025 will open from **Tuesday, 2 July 2024 to Wednesday, 30 October 2024**. Parents are encouraged to prepare early and regularly check the P1 Registration Exercise website for the latest updates on the registration exercise and the documents required for registration, including registration for overseas Singaporeans.

For clarifications or assistance, please contact us at 62717387 or email us at brps@moe.edu.sg.

More information can be found in the links below:

<https://www.moe.gov.sg/primary/p1-registration>

[2024 Primary One Registration Exercise to Start from 2 July 2024 | MOE](#)

9. Voices of Singapore Festival 2024

The school choir, Rising Harmonies, will be performing at the Voices of Singapore Festival 2024 (VOS). The school is also forming a combined schools choir, Choral Fusion, with Anglo-Chinese School (Primary) and Lighthouse School to perform at VOS. The collaboration is to bond students from diverse backgrounds and needs, focusing on the joy and community of singing.

VOS is an annual festival that aims to create meaningful and inclusive choral music-making experiences for all participants. The concert performances will be held 2 – 5 September 2024, at CHIJMES Hall. For more detailed information about the festival and its schedule, you can visit the Voices of Singapore Festival page ([Voices of Singapore](#)). Details on the sale of tickets for the two concert performances will be shared later.

Wishing you all a very good term ahead.

Yours sincerely



Francis Foo
Principal