

iN Touch @Frontier

www.frontierpri.moe.edu.sg

March 2016



ANNOUNCEMENT

Trekathon 2016 & March Holidays

In the January edition of iN Touch, we announced that the school would like Trekathon 2016 fund-raising efforts to support Frontiers and school improvement projects.

Since January, the school staff has had further conversations and we decided that we would instead want our efforts to benefit charitable organisations, just like the previous year when we had raised funds for HCA Hospice Care.

This will allow the school to continue teaching our pupils to be **active citizens** who make a difference to our community.

Hence for 2016, the school will raise funds for the following beneficiaries:

- i) HCA Hospice Care
- ii) VIVA Foundation for Children with Cancer
- iii) Singapore Disability Sports Council

All proceeds raised, after taking into account Trekathon expenses, will be donated to these organisations. The Trekathon cards will be distributed to all Frontiers and staff before the March holidays which will be from **12 to 20 March 2016**.

All pupils are to return to school for Term 2 of the year on **Monday, 21 March 2016**. We wish all a very fulfilling holiday ahead and hope that all Frontiers and stakeholders will support the school in the worthy cause of fundraising for the above charities.

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Do you have any feedback or ideas for iN Touch?

Do let us know on our website at <http://www.frontierpri.moe.edu.sg/our-stakeholders/iN-Touch-feedback-form>

You can also view our past issues at <http://www.frontierpri.moe.edu.sg/our-stakeholders/iN-Touchfrontier>



ANNOUNCEMENT

MOE Kindergarten Open House

Are you looking for a quality and affordable kindergarten programme for your pre-school child?

We warmly invite you and your child to join the upcoming Open Houses at 15 MOE Kindergartens island-wide!

At the MOE Kindergartens, we believe that children are curious, active and competent learners. We nurture children holistically, so that they blossom into confident children with strong social skills and a good foundation in literacy and numeracy.

The MOE Kindergarten curriculum is designed by the same MOE curriculum specialists behind MOE's Nurturing Early Learners Curriculum, which guides the development of kindergarten programmes in Singapore's pre-school education sector. Children will embark on an exciting learning journey through our two flagship programmes – the HI-Light Programme and Starlight Literacy Programme.

If you require a full-day service for your child, you'll be pleased to know that Kindergarten Care (7am to 7pm) is available at most MOE Kindergartens.

Visit an Open House near you to find out more!

Registrations for admission to K1 in 2017 will be accepted at the Open House.

Visit our website at www.moe.gov.sg/moekindergarten for more details.

Date: 9 April 2016, Saturday

Time: 9am – 2pm

Venues:	MOE Kindergarten @ Frontier (Kindergarten Care available) Frontier Primary School 20 Jurong West St 61 Singapore 648200	MOE Kindergarten @ Westwood (Kindergarten Care available) Westwood Primary School 1 Jurong West St 73 Singapore 649188
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We look forward to seeing you!

The MOE Kindergarten Team





ANNOUNCEMENT

FPS Digital Yearbook 2015

The school is delighted to announce the publication of our Digital Yearbook 2015. This Digital Yearbook has captured the various school events experienced through the past year.

You can view the Digital Yearbook at <http://bit.ly/fpsyearchbook2015>

Enjoy!



UPCOMING EVENTS

P1 to P4 e-Learning Day

The school will be having its e-Learning Day on **Thursday, 31 March 2016** for the P1 to P4 pupils. The purpose of the e-Learning day is to develop in Frontierers the qualities of self-directed learning and resilience, while increasing their proficiency in ICT-facilitated learning via the online tools on the school's Learning Management System (LMS). In addition, the experience will prepare our pupils for home-based learning in the event they are unable to attend school, thus minimizing the impact of potential disruptions to teaching and learning.

On the e-Learning Day, the P1 to P4 pupils are **not** required to report to school. Instead, they are expected to complete all online tasks assigned to them by the teachers on the school LMS portal from home at <https://www.mconline.sg/>. The bus vendor will be informed of this arrangement.

A more detailed letter will be given to the parents. There will also be a briefing to our pupils by the teachers, nearing the e-Learning Day. Related announcements and guides will also be put up on the school website for easy reference.





UPCOMING EVENTS

P1 to P4 Experiential Day

The school believes strongly in providing all our pupils with an experiential approach to their learning. All Frontierers go on learning journeys every year. For this year, the P1 to P4 pupils will be heading for their learning journeys on **Friday, 1 April 2016**. The school hours will be as usual on that day for all pupils.

The Learning Journeys for the different levels are as follows:

Primary 1—River Safari

Primary 2—Changi Airport

Primary 3—Singapore Discovery Centre

Primary 4—Singapore River

A separate letter with more details has already been given to parents.



P5 Outdoor Adventure Camp

Our Primary 5 pupils will be participating in our very first Outdoor Adventure Camp. It is a 2-day 1-night camp from **31 March to 1 April 2016** at the MOE Jalan Bahtera Outdoor Adventure Learning Centre.

The objectives of the camp are:

- To educate pupils on appreciating and respecting the outdoor environment
- To expose pupils to selected outdoor adventure activities
- To develop bonds and strengthen friendships through character building in managing relationships with self and others.

During the camp, pupils will take part in outdoor adventure activities such as high challenge course, abseiling, zipline, rock climbing, artificial caving, team building games and of course, campfire! Through these activities, pupils will get to build on the school value of 'Resilience' as well as forge camaraderie and teamwork within their form classes.





UPCOMING EVENTS

International Friendship Day

The school will celebrate International Friendship Day on **Monday, 4th April 2016**. This year's theme is "**Deepening International Friendships**" which aims to spark pupils' curiosity about different cultures, appreciate cultural diversity and encourage them to welcome and integrate international peers to the school.

Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar will be the focus countries for our school this year. On this occasion, pupils will learn and appreciate the cultures of these countries through an assembly program, various activities and enjoy special meals originating from Cambodia, Laos and Myanmar during their recesses. There will also be a food and snack sampling booth where pupils will be exposed to some of the native snacks of the three countries.

Through this experience, we hope that our young Frontierers will learn to understand the interconnectedness of the world today and possess a global outlook despite their tender age while remaining rooted to Singapore.

Mother Tongue Fortnight

Frontier will be organising our annual Mother Tongue Fortnight from **4 April 2016 to 15 April 2016**. The objective of this programme is to create a conducive environment to promote the learning and usage of Mother Tongue Languages (MTL) outside MTL class and school.

Your child will be engaged in a series of Language and Cultural activities throughout these two weeks. It's going to be an exciting learning experience for your child. You can be involved in this event too by getting your child to share with you on the activities that he/she has taken part in school. We are looking forward to your support in the event.

P4 NAPFA (National Physical Fitness Award)

NAPFA is a standardised assessment for overall fitness of pupils in Singapore. Since 2014, **only P4 and P6** pupils will take the NAPFA test.

P4 NAPFA involves a series of five stations (Sit-Ups, Inclined Pull-Ups, Sit and Reach, Standing Broad Jump and Shuttle Run) and a 1.6km run.

The five stations have been scheduled for **Tuesday, 12 April 2016** after curriculum hours

The 1.6-km run has been scheduled for **Monday, 25 April** during curriculum hours.

P4 pupils will be given a separate letter with more details about the NAPFA in early Term 2.





ICT Matters

C-Quest

The Ministry of Education (MOE) has developed a free mobile application, C-Quest, in its effort to promote Cyber Wellness (CW) messages aligned to the CW curriculum in schools.

Through this game, it encourages parents to teach their children cyber-wellness skills to ensure that they will be safe, respectful and responsible users of Information and Communication Technology (ICT). The game includes a series of multiple-choice questions where players are placed in different scenarios and asked what action they would take.

Parents are encouraged to discuss with their child about their choices as they play the game. This mobile version of C-Quest can be downloaded from the iTunes Store and Google Play.



LOOKING BACK

Safety has always been a priority in every school and likewise at Frontier. As such, the school is committed to having our annual **Fire-drill** which took place recently. Through the exercise, the pupils learnt to move out of their classrooms in a safe and orderly manner in the event of an emergency.

Do visit our school blog <http://blog.frontierpri.net> to see what our Frontiers experienced!



Raising your child for success

I met a good friend, Dr Foo Fung Fong over coffee one day and asked, “How did you help your children become so successful?” When I asked about the ‘success’ of her children, it was not just about academic excellence as society so often equates ‘success’ with. After all, Dr Foo is a medical doctor who followed her passion to serve disadvantaged children, youth and families.

Her work in the community has deeply inspired and motivated me to ask how she managed to juggle the demands of her job, community work and raising three great children. Her quick advice to parents? “Understand that success is not limited to intelligence quotient, but emotional quotient and resilience quotient as well. There are multiple intelligences and our children probably excel in a few of these areas. It is important that we try to help our children identify their talents, intelligences, passions and create opportunities to shine in these areas.”

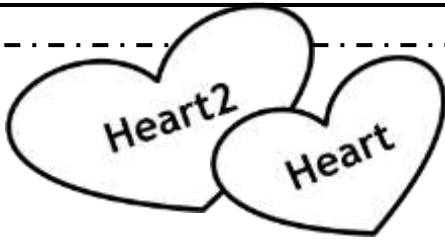
According to Dr Howard Gardner’s (Hobbs professor of cognition and education, Harvard Business School of Education) theory of **Multiple Intelligences (MI)**, there are eight types of intelligences – linguistic, logical-mathematical, spatial, bodily-kinaesthetic, musical, interpersonal, intrapersonal and naturalist. Thus, it is critical to identify your child’s intelligences as it helps develop the areas they are able to excel in. For example, a person with high spatial intelligence could make a good airplane pilot.

Dr Foo tries to practise this with her children. Her son, John, currently an undergraduate, also pursues his passion in fitness by running a gym and participating in numerous sports events. He also acts and dances on the local and international scene. Dr Foo shared that John recently won a weight lifting competition. Clearly, she is proud of John’s achievements beyond mere academics. “Develop children holistically, everything should be anchored on good moral values,” said Dr Foo. John can attest to his mother’s words. When he was 15, his grades were mediocre and he was worried about showing his report book. When he finally plucked up his courage to do so, he was surprised that his parents complimented him on his good conduct (as reflected in the teacher’s comments), and did not kick up a big fuss about his grades, although they did encourage him to improve. John was relieved and realised how much the grace and encouragement extended by his parents shaped him into a better person.

Dr Foo also abides by this principle, “Good parents are their child’s coach and teacher. However, the most important role to play in your children’s life is to be your child’s supporter. Encourage them wholeheartedly and love them unconditionally.” “I never felt pressured to choose a certain path or achieve a certain result. My parents allowed me to explore but they ensure that I was able to manage my time. If I wanted to take on more activities, I had to juggle my time and energy. If I wanted to quit from something, I have to be responsible and quit without my parent’s intervention. I felt assured that no matter what my decisions were and as long as I am responsible for my actions, they are always very supportive,” shares Esther, Dr Foo’s youngest daughter.

Praise and encourage your children for their effort, not just the results. Talk about their interests and friends, not just about their homework or the next spelling test. Children need to know that they are cared and loved for who they are, not for what they do or achieve. When our children do not do well, they too may feel disappointed. As parents, help them pick themselves up, build up their resilience by supporting and showing them examples on how they can face life challenges optimistically and independently. When they face an area they are weak in, help them deal with it. For example, when John struggled with his Chinese language in school, Dr Foo encouraged him to participate in a language immersion programme to learn about the culture and just appreciate the language.

Parents should be realistic about their expectations and their child’s capacity. Assure and remind them of other areas they are good in. As the saying goes, “*Everybody is a genius. But if you judge a fish by its ability to climb a tree, it will live its whole life believing that it is stupid.*” When we love and support our children unconditionally and teach them to be resilient and adaptable, we can be their safe and stable harbour. As parents, let’s strive to be our children’s guiding light in this ever-changing world.



Leadership Games for Kids

Leadership calls to traverse the road less travelled and emerge as a winner. It can only be learned through experiences, and what better way to master the leadership skills than through the various games and activities played in childhood. It is through games that children learn the knickknacks of surviving challenges and the art of cooperation. Besides, it also helps them improve their interpersonal skills and makes them better communicators. It makes visionaries out of ordinary boys and girls thus making them able to lead others around them.

Pirates of Land

Divide the group into two teams. Ask them to select a leader amongst themselves. Each team is given a few items that they have to hide (Team A hides the objects of team B and vice versa). The two teams then set out on a treasure hunt on the basis of the clues given by the opposite team. The leader would have to strategically plan out their course of action to find all the items before the other team.

Fall of Trust

Those of you who have seen Mean Girls will know what this game is all about. Get the children to form a circle, then one player is made to stand in the center and is asked to fall in any direction he/she chooses. The aim of this game is that the player ought to trust the person standing on either side to break his fall. A variation to this game is asking the children to gently push the player in a new direction. It will help strengthen their faith and trust in each other.

Tug of war

We have all played this game once in our life, and are sure to know the rules of this game. You need to get the group divided into two equal teams, and give them a long rope. The team that is able to pull the other team down first emerges as the winner. You can play this game sans the rope asking the team members to hold the leader who in turn tries to pull the other team.

Race of Hurdles

Pair up into teams of two, and tie the legs of both partners together. Now ask them to run an obstacle race. This requires cooperation and patience, planning, and not to forget great timing. A variant to this race is tying the partners at the hip so that the two players have their backs to each other. This will teach them to trust their partner as well.

Sports

Games like basketball, football, baseball require the team to constructively plan their game to emerge as winners. Not everyone will be able to strategically plan the game, so a leader should be chosen to avoid chaos. The leader will take decisions and it is up to him to ensure that the members follow the instructions.

Adapted from Buzzle: <http://www.buzzle.com/articles/leadership-games-for-kids.html>

