

iN Touch @Frontier



20 Jurong West Street 61, Singapore 648200 • Tel: 6578 9555 • Fax: 6790 8596

frontier_ps@moe.edu.sg • <http://www.frontierpri.moe.edu.sg> • <http://facebook.com/frontierprimary>

May/June 2016



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Message from the Principal

As schools function on a 5-day week, should a public holiday fall on a Saturday, the following Monday is a school holiday. Hence, the coming Monday, 23 May 2016 will be a school holiday due to Vesak Day which falls on Saturday, 21 May 2016.*

The last week of Term 2 is an important week as the school sums up the learning experience of all pupils for Semester 1. Frontierers will be having our first Sports Day for P3 to P5 in an external venue on 26 May 2016. This will be an exciting day of bonding in a sporting event. The term will end with an important session with the Parent-Child-Teacher Conference on 27 May 2016. We all know that collaboration between parents and the school plays a critical part in our children's holistic education.

The June holidays will start from **28 May to 26 June 2016**. All pupils are to return to school for Term 3 on Monday, 27 June 2016. We take this opportunity to wish all Frontierers a restful June vacation when they can spend quality time with their family. We look forward to welcoming refreshed Frontierers ready for new learning when Term 3 begins.

**More information on scheduled school terms and holidays can be found in the pupils' copy of 'My Handbook 2016'.*

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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>

Confident Thinkers • Adaptable Individuals • Passionate Leaders
Make A Difference • Be The Difference



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Temperature-Taking Exercise

The school will be conducting a Temperature-Taking Exercise on **Thursday, 30 June 2016**. Pupils are reminded to bring their working thermometer on that day.

Class and CCA Photo-Taking

The school will be having its annual class & CCA photo-taking on **Friday, 1 July 2016**. All P3 to P5 pupils are to be dressed in their school uniforms. PE attire is allowed only for P1 & P2 students.

Pupils who have PE lessons on that day are advised to bring their school uniforms along to change into for their class photo-taking. Any pupil who is inappropriately dressed will not be allowed to join the photo-taking session.

Members of various CCA groups are also to bring along their CCA attire, if any, as advised by their CCA teachers.

Please note there will be no provision made for pupils who are absent. Details of the ordering process will be provided at a later date.

Donation Drive for Used Textbooks and Uniform

As a part of our environmental conservation efforts, Frontier has partnered the NTUC *Free Textbooks* organisation in its drive to recycle used textbooks. The school also caters to our pupils' needs for spare sets of uniform when they are accidentally soiled or torn during school hours.

The school will be carrying out a donation drive for used textbooks at the end of the year while used school uniform could be donated in the middle of the year as well as at the end of the year. Pupils have been briefed on the donation drive and we would like to encourage all pupils and parents to join us in this effort.

Donated textbooks should be in usable condition without torn or defaced pages while name tags are to be removed from the school uniforms before donating them. Join us in this donation drive by sending the items through your child to the school's General Office **before 30 June 2016 (used uniform) and/or 26 November 2016 (used uniform and textbooks)**



ANNOUNCEMENTS

“My Dads for Life’ Kits

This year, a campaign was launched to celebrate fathers and recognise their contributions to their families. The community movement is jointly organised by Ministry of Social and Family Development, Dads For Life, Mediacorp and the National Population and Talent Division.

All pupils have been given a “My Dad for Life” kit for the campaign which begins in June. The kit consists of a card and a wristband for fathers. Fathers will receive community recognition with a token of appreciation by sponsors if they are spotted wearing the wristband in high traffic areas at the CBD in the month of June.



UPCOMING EVENTS

Termly Spring Cleaning

As part of school efforts to inculcate in pupils a sense of responsibility and ownership for their immediate classroom environment, the school will be embarking on its termly Spring Cleaning exercise on **Wednesday, 25 May 2016**. All pupils are to bring to school a pair of disposable gloves, a rag and a plastic bag (to take home any of their own items) on that day. There will not be any cleaning agents to be used in this exercise. All pupils and teachers will be involved in cleaning and recycling items within the classroom, and getting it ready for the new term.

In addition to the termly Spring Cleaning, all P4 and P5 pupils have also been involved in a *Spick and Span* programme. One of the features of this programme is that pupils have complete ownership of the cleanliness of their classroom on Wednesdays and Thursdays.

Through these, we hope to nurture Frontierers to be caring and responsible citizens.



UPCOMING EVENTS

P1 and P2 Buddy-Me Movie Day

In our efforts to build strong friendships and interpersonal skills among our pupils, all Primary 1 and Primary 2 have embarked on a Buddy-Me Programme from January till November every year. The programme has been successful in enabling our P1 pupils to ease into the primary school life with the support of their P2 buddies.

All P1 and P2 pupils will be involved in the second platform of the programme on **Wednesday, 25 May 2016**, when they will enjoy watching a movie accompanied with interactive activities. These will be done during school hours. Have fun!

Kindness Week

Building a culture of care is central in Frontier's curriculum. To achieve this, we have various CCE programmes carried out over the course of each year. One of these programmes is the **Friends of Singa Ambassador Programme** which is done in partnership with Singapore Kindness Movement and schools nationwide to develop exemplary champions of kindness within schools.

In 2016, Welfare leaders have been handpicked by their form teachers to be Friend of Singa ambassadors. As ambassadors, pupils are guided by teachers and tasked to create and spread a culture of kindness through various activities and pupil-initiated projects in the year. The Kindness Week SG booklets will be given to the pupils this term and there will be a commemoration of Kindness Day which falls on the **20 May 2016** in the school.

Hari Raya Puasa

This year, Hari Raya Aidilfitri falls on **Wednesday, 6 July 2016**. As such, **Muslim pupils may be dismissed earlier on Tuesday, 5 July 2016 which is the eve of Hari Raya**. Muslim pupils may be dismissed **at 11.15 am** while school hours will be as usual for the non-Muslim pupils. A letter will be provided to parents of Muslim pupils to indicate whether they would like their children to be dismissed earlier on that day.

The school will also be holding a simple Hari Raya Concert on **Monday, 11 July 2016**. Details will be provided nearer the date.



ICT MATTERS

Cyber Wellness Week @ Frontier (18 to 23 April)

During the Cyber Wellness (CW) week, a series of fun-filled activities was planned for our pupils during the morning assembly and recesses. Pupils attended differentiated assembly sessions and during FTGP lessons, pupils and teachers explored and discussed cyber wellness issues. Pupils were also excited to try out the recess activities at the different CW stations: **CW Play**, **CW Wall**, **CW Games** and **CW Emoji Challenge**, to learn more about cyber wellness related topics and issues. Pupils had lots of fun mimicking the 8 emojis representing the 4 main values of Responsibility, Respect, Integrity and Empathy at the CW Emoji Challenge. 1000 exclusive CW stickers were all fully redeemed at our CW Game station, where pupils were entitled to a sticker for every CW question answered correctly.

The children enjoyed the games and gained new knowledge about keeping themselves and others safe online. Our P3 to P5 T.A.C. leaders played their part well by helping out as station masters at the respective CW stations during recess. We are also very appreciative of our Parent Helpers who took time off amidst their busy schedules to help out at the various stations.

We ended the week with **Snap-IT! 2016** workshop for 20 parent-and-child pairs on a Saturday morning. Parents and children had hands-on experience with the *Stop-Motion* app on iPads. They worked together to create a Stop-Motion clip. Most importantly, the activity provided a wonderful platform for both parent and child to bond. Besides learning the basics of Stop-Motion, parents also picked up some parenting tips on how to manage children's gaming habits from a talk by TOUCH Cyber wellness. It was definitely a good reminder for all to practise cyber wellness!



LOOKING BACK

More than 20 PPC parent-child pairs & their families came together for a game of softball during the PPC Sports Day on Saturday, 14 May 2016.

It was an interesting experience as softball is less familiar to many parents, unlike the sports played in previous PPC sports days - captain ball (2014) and soccer (2015). This event being part of the Family Matters @ School for Fathers Programme, it was notable that daddies formed more than half the parents who participated. These father had a great bonding time with their children.

To read more about the softball game and the fun experience of the fathers and their children, do view our upcoming post on the school blog at <http://blog.frontierpri.net/>



Why Kids Should Do Chores

Retired Principal, Mrs Jenny Yeo shares how parents can nurture young children to be more responsible and independent through doing chores.

Want an independent, caring and helpful child? Give him/her some responsibilities, say experts.

On my recent holiday in Japan, I was very impressed with cleanliness of the streets and I marveled at the civic mindedness of the inhabitants. One of the traditions of Japanese education is that students do *soji* (cleaning). *Soji* starts after lunch and lasts for about 20 minutes. This happens four times a week and on the last day of each semester, there is a longer sprucing-up called *o-soji* (big cleaning). Throughout cleaning time, the public announcement system blasts cheerful marching music. Every class is responsible for cleaning its own classroom and two other places in the school. Through cleaning, values like responsibility, cooperation and discipline are inculcated. Although students only need to take care of the areas they are accountable for, they are more considerate and less likely to litter or mess up the public areas.

These days, many Singapore students attend after-school activities like enrichment programmes, tuition or sports classes; activities that parents hope it will help with academic achievements or furnish their child's portfolio. Few are expected to help out with everyday responsibilities; some parents even react adversely when children are asked to help out with these responsibilities at school.

Here's some food for thought; research by Dr Marty Rossmann, Professor Emeritus at the University of Minnesota and Richard Weissbourd (Ed.D), psychologist from the Harvard Graduate School of Education, shows that children who help out with home duties or chores actually do better in school and they are more empathetic and caring. In fact, children who participate in everyday responsibilities perceive themselves more positively, have a stronger sense of self-worth and are less stressed. Interestingly, the effects are comparable to that of affectionate hugs and fun play with their friends. These children also feel good that they are contributing; they feel wanted, needed and bonded to the family. They see that they have an important role to play in the family and the daily responsibilities help to make caring and helpfulness second nature to them.

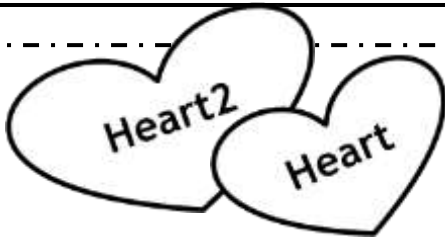
In the past, helping out with housework was part and parcel of growing up in my family. My mother would assign a room to each of us. My elder sister was responsible for the living room, and my twin sister and I were in charge of a bedroom each. Our duties include wiping, dusting, sweeping and mopping, and making the beds. At mealtimes, we take turns to set the table and everyone had to wash their own dishes. My mother made us understand why and how the chores were to be done. She also showed us ways to make the beds and tools to use for cleaning. She motivated and rewarded us occasionally but also laid ground rules and meted out consequences if we failed to do so.

In retrospect, not only did my siblings and I learn how to clean and organise; we also learnt time management. No chores done, no play time! We grew up learning to be responsible for a comfortable home environment and the family naturally were thoughtful towards each other. For example, we were mindful not to mess up the house because we knew we would not want the areas we are responsible for to be a mess!

Encourage, praise, show affection and love when your children put in effort. Be patient, do not nag and accept that it will take time to start a child on everyday responsibilities. Sometimes a child may take his or her time to complete each task but remember not to intervene. Remind and explain to them on time management. If we take over the task, the child will be deprived of the satisfaction they experience when they complete the task and it will cultivate irresponsible behaviours. The child might think that they are not capable of doing it, lose their self-confidence and stop trying. It is worse if they set their mind to leave the chores as it will be done by someone else eventually.

Steer clear of financial rewards if your goal is to instill the values of care and responsibility. A star on a chart for a young child and positive verbal affirmation are much better ways to reinforce and motivate.

To nurture responsible, independent, and caring adults of tomorrow, we as the adults of today have to let our children experience the important part they can play in helping and caring for the family and be socially responsible for their surroundings and environment. If you want an independent, caring and helpful child, experts recommend to give your child everyday responsibilities. *An extract from <https://www.schoolbag.sg/story/why-kids-should-do-chores#.Vz1iJ3F97IW>*



With the holidays fast approaching, it is worthwhile to consider activities to build a stronger relationship between you and your children. Here are some activities you can consider. Have fun with your child these holidays!

1. Eat Dinner Together

Prioritise having dinner together as a family as often as you can. Not only does it help you bond together as a family, there is mounting evidence that kids who eat regular meals with their families do better in school, are more healthy and less likely to be involved in wrongful activities. Additionally, there is evidence to show that you as the parent can ward off stress by making time for family meals, and while saving money in the process.

2. Read Together

Get a library card and make it a point to go to the library often to ensure you have a constant supply of books at home. Set aside a few minutes each day as family reading time – where you read to your kids (if they are younger) or the kids read by themselves while you catch up on some books yourself.

3. Travel Together

Vacations are a great way to let go, relax and connect.

4. Go on picnics/short escapes/camping.

In between vacations, include picnics, staycations and short camping trips to continue getting short doses of down-time bonding.

5. Plan things together.

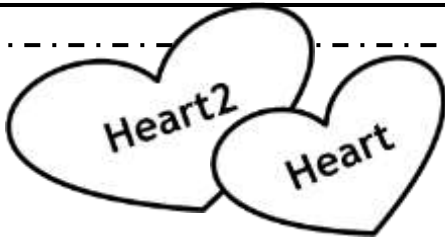
Be it vacations, chores or after school activities, make your plans together as a family. By including kids in the planning shares the ownership of whatever you are doing with them, and that lets them enjoy and behave voluntarily.

6. Create and talk about family stories.

Like family traditions, the stories of each family are unique and not only can they bring the family together, but they can act as a timeless bridge between generations.

7. Scrapbooks and Photobooks!

There are a great compliment to your family traditions, family vacations and family stories — not to mention the good old everyday moments! The key is to make sure that instead of letting the photos stay trapped in your memory card or the hard drive forever, you free them into the “real” world in the form of scrapbook or a photobook.



8. Cook/bake together.

Whenever possible, enlist your kids help in the cooking process. Kitchen is the heart of a house and spending time together in the kitchen makes it so much easier to create the kind of mellow memories that last a lifetime. Cooking helps kids develop a love for cooking and healthy eating habits that last a lifetime. It even helps them learn the value of planning and develop self-confidence.

9. Build a family garden.

Whether you have a large backyard, or a window sill full of planters, planning and grooming for a family garden is a great way to bond with the kids. The time you spend together, the opportunities to talk and teach, the joy of growing your own dinner and the million photo opportunities.

10. Have scheduled family movie nights

Experience the joy of cuddling up to a nice little movie.

11. Have scheduled family game days/nights

Bundle up the kids and take them for a round of mini-golf or bowling; or bring out the board games – the key is to put it on schedule and do it consistently.

12. Learn Something New Together

Learn a new skill together (art classes, pottery, cooking classes, yoga etc.)

Attend religious or cultural gatherings together

Share common goals and dreams and do something about it.

Build something together (Lego projects, DIY projects etc.)

Paint your kids room to their liking Go fishing!

Relax, Unwind and Have A Good Bonding Time Together This Holiday!

