

September 2015



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Haze Response Measures

Singapore has been experiencing hazy conditions for the past few days due to smoke haze from Sumatra. The 24-hr PSI for the next few days may be in the low to mid end of the unhealthy range, and may further deteriorate if the winds are unfavourable. The school is alert and monitoring the PSI levels. We will step up our haze management readiness when necessary.

As part of our haze management readiness process, we compiled a list of students with pre-existing conditions such as asthma and heart conditions in the beginning of the year. If there has since been any new development in your child's medical status, please update the respective form teacher immediately so that the list in the school is accurate. We would like to remind pupils with pre-existing conditions to have their medication with them daily (e.g. pupils with asthma to carry their inhalers etc).

We will provide parents with updates on our haze management measures should the situation deteriorate.

### At A Glance

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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>



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### School Hours in 2016

The school will be making some changes to the end of curriculum hours in 2016 as detailed in the table below.

These changes are necessary to facilitate running of afternoon programmes. Wednesday will be a short day and **all pupils will be dismissed earlier at 12:45pm.**

	Mon	Tues	Wed	Thu	Fri
<b>Start of school</b>	Flag raising ceremony starts at 7:30am  Pupils are advised to be <u>at school by 7:20am</u> so that they can be at the assembly venue in time for the flag raising ceremony				
<b>End of curriculum hours</b>	1:45pm		<b>12:45pm</b>	1:45pm	
<b>Afternoon programmes</b>	<u>P4 and above</u> Some CCAs will run from 2:45pm to 4:45pm	Remedial lessons will run for selected pupils between 2:15pm to 4:15pm *	x	Remedial lessons will run for selected pupils between 2:15pm to 4:15pm *	<u>P3 only</u> Structured CCA will run from 2:45 to 4:45pm  <u>P4 and above</u> Some CCAs will run from 2:45pm to 4:45pm

CCAs will run on either Monday or Friday to facilitate allocation of sufficient physical resources. Pupils will be informed of the days and dates via a letter from the CCA teacher-in-charge by the start of each term.

Arrangements have been made with the school bus service provider to accommodate these changes in timing.

We hope that providing this information to parents early will better enable you to make any necessary home-care arrangements for your child/ward.

*\* Not all pupils will be involved in the afternoon remedial classes. Pupils identified for remedial lessons will receive a letter from the subject teacher.*



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### SG50 Giving

*SG50 Giving* aims to promote pupil ownership in Values in Action (VIA). Every school in Singapore has been given \$20,000 to make a one-off donation to up to three Institutions of a Public Character (IPCs) after a pupil engagement process.

Through *SG50 Giving*, MOE seeks to:

- Spark off pupils' awareness of the needs in their community and inspire the spirit of giving in them;
- Promote pupil initiative and ownership of VIA projects with identified Institutions of a Public Character (IPCs); and
- Provide opportunities for schools to establish longer-term partnerships with identified IPCs.

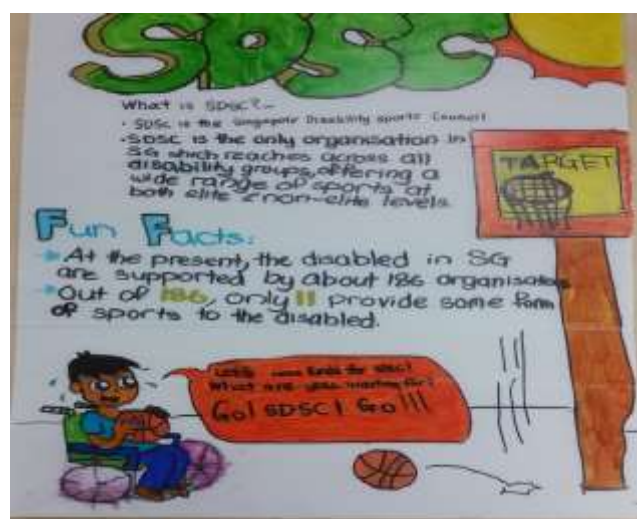
In Frontier Primary, our pupils were engaged in an assembly programme where they were introduced to four IPCs:

- (1) VIVA Foundation for Children with Cancer
- (2) Singapore Disability Sports Council (SDSC)
- (3) Movement for the Intellectually Disabled of Singapore (MINDS)
- (4) Art Outreach Singapore Limited

Following that, our Primary 3 and 4 pupils were involved in a process where they had to research to do up a poster on one of the IPCs. The posters were viewable by all to help everyone better understand the work of the IPCs. Pupils then voted for the IPC whose cause they best identified with.

Based on the results of voting, 55% of the respondents voted for VIVA, 22% of them voted for SDSC, 12% for MINDS and 11% for Art Outreach. Hence, the school made a decision to donate \$15 000 to VIVA and \$5 000 to SDSC and this was shared to pupils during one of the our Morning Programmes.

Through this engagement process, we hope that our pupils have learnt to be more aware of the needs of the community and be inspired to do more for the needy.





## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### **SINGAPORE in DOODLES: SG50 Doodle Challenge**

Our pupils took part in the **SG50 Doodle Challenge** art competition held in July. This was organised by 360 Education and supported by the Singapore SG50 Celebration Fund.

Some of our pupils have turned in imaginative designs, transforming “SG50” squiggle into meaningful works of art relating to their lives in Singapore.

We would like to congratulate the following pupils for winning prizes:

#### **Merit Prizes**

Sorensin Yeo Zhi Xun (3 Confidence)

Wan Nadya (4 Respect)

Austin Chua Boon Teck (2 Care)

#### **Consolation Prizes**

Clairessa Tia (4 Confidence)

Belicia Song (3 Care)

Marcus Chong (2 Care)

Atticus Tew (3 Resilience)

The pupils' artworks will be showcased at the **Jurong Regional Library from 6<sup>th</sup> to 18<sup>th</sup> September 2015**. Do go down to the library to view the winning entries!

### **Nomination for Caring Teacher Awards 2016**

The Caring Teacher Awards are aimed at acknowledging and rewarding teachers in our school who show care and concern for the holistic development of their pupils and go the extra mile to ensure their charges grow up to be confident and independent learners. The nomination forms will be printed for all pupils and can also be downloaded from <http://www.cta.nie.edu.sg>.

We would like to invite you to submit a nomination for any teacher who may be deserving of the recognition. Please submit your nomination form to the General Office. The closing date for the submission is **Monday, 5 October 2015**.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### Returning of Frontier Library(I<sup>3</sup>) Books

We are pleased to see that our pupils have been enthusiastically visiting I<sup>3</sup> to read and borrow books. We would like to remind our pupils to return our school library books to our Media Resource Library (MRL), I<sup>3</sup>, instead of the National Library Board (NLB).

We seek your cooperation to help remind your child on the matter. To instil the value of responsibility, pupils who have accidentally returned Frontier library books to NLB will be informed to collect the books back from NLB.



## UPCOMING EVENTS



### Children's Day (CD) Fiesta

Frontier Primary is very excited to be celebrating our 4<sup>th</sup> Children's Day. Our theme for this year is "**COLOURS@Frontier—Chasing The Rainbow**" to reflect our pupils' pursuits to fulfil their dreams. We are also most delighted to have the MOE Kindergarten@Frontier pupils with us to celebrate this special day together.

The CD Fiesta will be held on **Thursday, 8 October 2015**. Pupils are to report to school at the usual time but will be dismissed earlier at 12 noon on that day via the usual dismissal points.

More information on the event will be made available to you through a letter. Hence, do look out for it!





## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Bully-Free Week

Frontier will be holding a *Bully-Free Week* from **23 Sept till 2 Oct 2015**. The purpose of this week is to raise awareness of bullying and to advocate a respectful environment in the school.

The *Bully-Free Week* is organised by twelve **P4 Bully-free ambassadors** who have worked hard to prepare exciting game booths and bully-free quotes for all pupils. Through this platform, we aim to instil in our pupils the importance of being a good friend and learning how to live harmoniously with one another in school.

We hope that our pupils will have a fun and engaging time learning from their peers and teachers on friendship and ways to promote a bully-free environment in the school.



## LOOKING BACK

In Frontier, a few events happened during the last two weeks of Term 3. They were **Experiential Day, Vista Camp for P3, Speak Good English Movement (SGEM), Mathematics Carnival** and **Teachers' Day celebration with ACES (All Children Exercise Simultaneously)**.

These blog entries will be coming to you very soon at:

<http://blog.frontierpri.net>

Do view to see what Frontierers experienced during these events!



## ICT MATTERS

### **ICT Baseline Training for P2 Pupils – Text-IT!**

As part of our 6-year ICT training plan, our Primary 2 pupils are undergoing a basic MS Word training, starting **from Term 4 Week 1**. We are incorporating the ICT training into English and Mother Tongue Language lessons to increase its relevance and applicability.

The objectives of this training include recognizing and identifying the buttons in the different tabs, creating, saving and opening a word document in a specified folder, and inserting text box and clipart.

At the end of the module, pupils should be able to type an assigned paragraph and insert the relevant clipart. It would be great if parents can revise some of these skills with the pupils during the weekends or leisure time so they can have opportunities to practice.

### **'notAnoobie' Mobile Application**

Have you ever wondered what children might be up to while they are on their mobile phones? Or wondered about the internet lingo which they have been using with their peers?

With the rise of newer social media applications like Snapchat and Vine, the risk of children being exposed to serious or negative situations online has increased.

'notAnoobie' is an information portal designed for parents. It aims to promote awareness on cyber wellness issues such as cyberbullying and help parents to overcome the challenges of parenting in the digital age. This easy-to-navigate application provides a range of articles on gaming, mobile addiction, how to protect personal privacy online and how to identify cyber bullying. All these resources help parents learn more about the latest digital trends affecting youths today. This mobile application is available on both *Android Play Store* and *Apple App Store*.



We encourage all parents to download and install this app to help you better understand your child's online experience as well as keep you updated on current cyber wellness matters.

**Let's work together to help provide a positive online experience for our children.**



## Fail Fast, Fail Smart

*It's all right for children to fail, says Finnish education expert Pasi Sahlberg, as long as parents use this opportunity to teach them the important lessons behind their mistakes and help them move on.*

Imagine having a day dedicated to celebrating failure – when people call in to radio shows to share stories of the things they're awful at and major corporations hold conferences and events to highlight the fact that failure is an opportunity to learn. In Finland, that's exactly what people do on National Failure Day, which falls on 13 October each year. This unlikely commemoration of missteps didn't come about as a result of the Finnish commitment to liberal ideals. Rather, it had to do with a desire to drive innovation.

A group of young entrepreneurs founded the campaign in 2010 to encourage people to take risks and cast aside their fear of failing. The idea behind it is simple: they wanted people to try something new and different so that they could grow as individuals and so that collectively they could grow as a nation. Failure doesn't matter; the important thing is that you tried.

Pasi Sahlberg, a central figure behind ongoing education reforms in Finland and a Visiting Professor at Harvard University in the US, says: "On this day, we try to educate those in our schools that failure and success are not opposites. Failure is on the same continuum with success and it's often something you have to go through before you can become successful."

The concept might seem strange, especially to Singaporeans for whom "failure is not an option". How do we change this mindset and teach young people that at times it's all right to fail?

"It's about educating society as a whole," Prof Sahlberg says. "I think Singapore has a huge capacity to take more risks within its education system. You have a very strong foundation and strong staff. You could do more in this area and celebrating failure through education would be a wonderful next step."

Still sceptical? Before society as a whole starts celebrating failure, perhaps we could test out Prof Sahlberg's beliefs at home. Here's how:

**Talk to your child:** "I always tell my children that I'm there to help them," Prof Sahlberg says. "My philosophy of raising my children is: I let them do what they think is the best thing for them instead of telling them what's right and wrong."

Your kid needs to know that they can talk to you about anything, so keep an open mind and discuss failure. Ask them about their good and bad experiences at school.

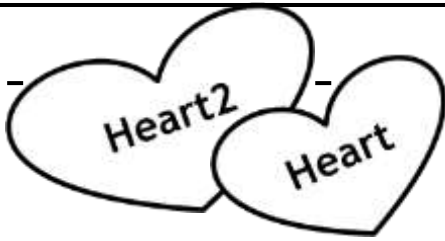
**Don't be negative:** Failure isn't something to be feared or ashamed of. Help your children understand that it's normal to fail. Prof Sahlberg says: "If you fail, fail smart. If you have to fail, fail early and try to learn from it."

If your kids aren't making mistakes, it could mean that they're choosing the path of least resistance and not taking risks or trying out unconventional ideas. Sometimes the most learning happens when you choose a path that takes you out of your comfort zone.

**Give them space:** Children need room to be who they are – to explore their strengths and interests. Don't push them too hard or set unrealistic expectations – this approach can backfire. Acknowledge that each child is unique and that your measure of excellence as a parent doesn't always match your child's potential. Help them discover their inner talent. Respect your child's intentions and be supportive – your child will appreciate just having you along on their learning journey.

**Love them for who they are:** Providing a loving and caring environment helps your child flourish. Children are more motivated to learn when they feel accepted, even after making a mistake.





## Making a Paper Top

### What you will need:

Coloured paper strips

Glue

Toothpick

Scissors

### Directions

1. Cut cardboard or coloured paper into strips.
2. Start winding them carefully around a toothpick, adding a little glue from time to time – it will make the paper easier to bend.
3. When you're done, cover the sides with glue so the rolled paper will not rotate around the axis. The spinner will be ready to play with as soon as the glue has dried.
4. The spinning of the top can be a bit difficult initially. Encourage your child to keep trying. With a little practice, your child will be able to spin the top too!
5. Have fun with your child with the colourful top!

