



COMPASSVALE SECONDARY SCHOOL 康柏中学

51 Compassvale Crescent, Singapore 545083

Tel: 6881 5047 Fax: 6881 5998

Email: CVSS@moe.edu.sg

Website: <http://www.compassvalesec.moe.edu.sg/>

School Motto: *Realising the Star Within*

15 January 2019

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Welcome to a new school year in 2019! I am pleased to update you on the following matters and share some useful information.

New Key Personnel

Ms Jaceyln Kee Lee Ling – Second VP(Academic) [Ms Kee was formerly HOD/Art in CHIJ Katong Convent].

Mrs Preeti Kulkarni - Subject Head/Project Work and also in charge of Environment Education

School Focus for 2019

In alignment with MOE's direction, we will continue to focus on nurturing joy of learning, developing entrepreneurial dare and strengthening the Singapore Spirit in our students. We will continue to build our strengths in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Math) teaching and learning, supported by our Aeronautics Applied Learning Programme, Project Work with a scientific focus on sustainable living; Science Outdoor Learning Experiential Programme/Elementz Science Research Programme, 'O' level Applied Science Electronics Subject (starting from Sec 3/2019), Fun with Math Programme, Craft & Technology design thinking etc. Our student development programme continues to centre on our STAR Programme – *Seek out your strength, Take responsibility, Adopt an enterprising spirit, Ready for the world*. We will continue to place a strong emphasis on character education, anchored by our Character & Citizenship Education programme and our Learning for Life Programme in Community and Youth Leadership.

School Culture & Ethos and School Values

We have reviewed and redefined our school culture and ethos as follows to apply to all our students and staff

- Achieve our Best – Strive for excellence in everything we do;
- Believe in Ourselves – Everyone can achieve and all can succeed;
- Care for One Another – Encourage and support one another at all times; and
- Diversity in Harmony – Embrace diversity and celebrate our differences

As values drive behaviour and behaviour shapes culture, we have also reviewed and reframed our school values as **G²R³IT** – Graciousness, Gratitude, Respect, Responsibility, Resilience, Integrity and Teamwork. We hope all our students and staff will live out our school values in our daily actions, behaviour and dispositions and help shape the culture and ethos so that our school will continue to strive to be an achieving and caring school with your strong support and close partnership.

2019 Daily Routine, School Calendar and Internal/External Exams Schedule

We have given all students a copy each of the above, which are also available on our school website.

School-Based Assessment (SBA) - To reduce exam stress and conserve curriculum time during the transition years in lower/upper secondary, Sec 1 will not have mid-year exam from this year onwards and Sec 3 will not have mid-year exam from 2020 or 2021 onwards (to be decided later). There will also be no more common tests for all levels. Please refer to the letter on School-Based Assessment issued to all Sec 1-3 students on first day of school for more details. The letter also includes information on the structure and weighting of termly weighted assessment for each subject across all levels. There is no change to Sec 4/5 assessment structure.

2019 Sec 1 Intake - We have 9 Sec 1 classes in 2019 – 5 Express, 3 NA (one more than 2018) and 1 NT classes. The range of PSLE T-scores for the Express/NA/NT intake are 214-238, 173-199 and 136-159 respectively. 92, 93 and 100% of our Exp/NA/NT intake respectively chose our school among their first three choices.

2018 GCE 'O' Level Exam Results

We have improved on our O level results significantly, compared to 2017. 96% of 4E and 74% of 5N students are eligible for the polytechnics with 67 of them attaining 4 or more distinctions. Subjects with more than 50% students scoring distinctions include Science (Phys/Chem), Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Malay Language and Math for 4E and Science (Phys/Chem) for 5N.

2018 GCE 'N' Level Exam Results

We have improved on our NA results tremendously compared to 2017 with almost all subjects achieving higher % passes and % distinctions especially Add Math, Science (Phys/Chem) and Science (Chem/Bio). For NA, 89.4% qualify for 5NA and 33% qualify for Polytechnic Foundational Prog (PFP) based on the new criteria of EMB3 12 points and below and minimum B3 in all relevant subjects (there are now 1500 places reserved across all the polys compared to 1200 places previously). We have EMB3 6 pointers and one perfect score (EMB3 5 points) this year. For NT, there are ups and downs in % passes and % distinctions across different subjects.

New CCA – Community Youth Leaders Club

To enhance our Learning for Life (LLP) Programme in Community & Youth Leadership, we have started the above new CCA for interested Sec 1 students this year. Through the club, we aim to community youth leaders who will work with our community partners, advocate community needs, and identify viable platforms to serve the community, including linking up with other CCA groups. They will also be our national ambassadors and participate in nation-wide projects/events to help strengthen the Singapore Spirit.

Highlights of School Programmes in Term 4/2018

- **Visit of Philippines Science High School teachers (12 Sep)** – Our school hosted 20 science teachers from various top science high schools in the Philippines who are undergoing a training programme by Temasek Foundation International and the international arm of Nanyang Polytechnic. The teachers were in our school to learn new ways of teaching in D&T and STEM education. Their students are in the top 20% of Filipino youths and many of them continue to pursue careers in science and technology.
- **International Coastal Clean-Up (ICCS) (15 Sep)** – 101 students from various CCA and teachers carried out our annual ICCS at Changi Beach, jointly organised by our Environment Club and Lee Kong Chian Natural History Museum. Despite the sweltering weather, they worked tirelessly and removed nearly 200 kg of trash. Students learnt the importance of waste minimisation to reduce shoreline debris and the importance of keeping our shorelines clean for a sustainable living environment.

- **Sec 2 Project Work Learning Festival (22 Oct)** – All Sec 2 Exp/NA students completed their PW in sustainable energy with a PW Learning Festival showcasing the best student work. In 2018, we embarked on the use of Design Thinking for user-centred problem-solving with authentic and innovative solutions. The most outstanding PW teams participated in the “Bright Ideas Challenge” as part of the ‘Make the Future’ Festival organised by Shell Singapore. One of the teams won a Merit Award and was selected to present their idea of an environmentally friendly cooling system to the Guest-Of-Honour, Minister S Iswaran, Minister of Trade and Industry.
- **Partnership with Bethesda Care Services** – 10 students from 2T1 and 14 Sec 3 students designed and painted 2 wall murals (“My Kampong Home” and “Retro Singapore”) for the Senior Activity Centre at 287A Compassvale Crescent after their year-end exams. Our students did a great job with their creativity and injected a sense of vibrancy in the centre.
- **Graduation Night (20 Nov)** – 75% of our 4N4E5N students attended the annual Graduation Night at Suntec Singapore Convention Hall, encouraged by the presence of 50 teachers. Bryan Adam Liam (4T1), Valedictorian for 4NA/NT and Jewel Woon (4E5), Valedictorian for 4Exp/5NA spoke on behalf of their cohorts to thank the school and exhort the Class of 2018 to strive for success in life. The CVSS Alumni also took the opportunity to invite the Class of 2018 to join the Alumni in giving back to the school. The night ended with a lucky draw where 50 students walked away with prizes worth a total of more than \$1300, partly donated by CVSS staff.
- **Open House (24 Nov)** - 738 families visited the school and they were impressed by our Student Ambassadors who were polite, knowledgeable and confident, our staff who were friendly and approachable; our range of varied and engaging school programmes; and the spaciousness and cleanliness of our school compound and facilities.
- **Boys Brigade Overseas BB Exchange to Chonburi, Thailand (31 Oct - 5 Nov)** -10 BB boys went on this trip which included service learning projects at Khunchae Christian Wittaya School and the village where the school is located, home visits to needy homes, day camp with 1st and 2nd BB Chonburi companies and visits to various cultural and historical attraction.
- **Leadership Development and Cultural Immersion trip to Hong Kong (18-24 Nov)** – 37 students from sports/UG CCAs went on this trip which included a 2D1N trek up Mount Tai Mo Shan and stay at a youth hostel that challenged the students’ endurance and mental strength. Other activities included an urban amazing race, school immersion at Tsuen Wan Public Ho Chuen Yin Memorial College and Leung Sing Tak College, visits to various cultural attractions and Disney World of Physics Programme at HK Disneyland.
- **School Exchange and Cultural Immersion trip to Suzhou/Hangzhou/Nanjing/Wuxi/Shanghai (21-29 Nov)** - 40 students went on this trip which included school immersion with our twinning schools in Suzhou - SIP Xinggang School and Changshu Foreign Language Middle School. They also visited many places of cultural, historical and educational interests in various cities and had the opportunity to watch traditional cultural performances in Suzhou Master-of-Net Garden and Song Dynasty City.
- **Aeronautics/Science cum Cultural Immersion trip to Japan Tokyo/Mount Fuji/Matsumoto/Kyoto/Osaka (28 Nov-6 Dec)** - 34 students went on this trip which included visits to Museum of Aeronautical Science, Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency, Toshiba Science Museum, Miraikan National Museum of Emerging Science of Innovation and Cyberdyne, Matsumoto Airport in various cities. They also visited Nagano Technical High School and experienced Japanese culture first hand such as the samurai experience besides visiting many cultural and heritage sites in various cities.

Highlights of School Achievements/Awards achieved or announced in Term 4/2018

- Singapore Environmental Council-Starhub School Green Awards 2018 - Vanda Miss Joaquim Award (The highest award given to schools for environmental efforts in various aspects such as community outreach, recycling/upcycling, water/energy conservation)
- North East CDC/NEA-North East Regional Office North East District Environment Award 2018 – Gold (3rd time)

Students

- Nanyang Poly Science and Technology Challenge “Take Flight and Soar” category – Most Innovative Award among 15 participating teams - Jovan Lim Wei En, Tan Yong Han, Koh Tze Wang
- Nanyang Poly Drone Micro:bit Challenge – 1st Runner-up (senior category) – Kevin Mok, Ryan Lau, Jeremy Ong [Aeronautics Club]
- Work Experience Prog @ Centre of Research & Applied Learning in Science, S'pore Science Centre – Melody Wuang
- ITE/NEA/SWCDC Sustainable Lifestyle Challenge (Secondary category) – Team 2nd [“Using micro:bit to create a solar-powered self-regulated watering system” by Jensen Tan, Bryan Goh, Koko Ong, Edna Sim] and Merit Award [“Harvesting rainwater to generate energy” by Selina Lee, Azza Zafrin, Lim Wei Jie, Zeus Ki’ern]
- PacificLight Crea8 Sustainability Essay Competition – 1st Runner-up (Upp Sec) – Koh Wei Lun (Environment Club)
- National Youth Upcycling Movement organised by Crescent Girls Sch/Terra SG – 1 Silver and 2 Bronze awards (Environment Club)
- 12th National Junior Watercolouring Competition On-The-Spot Painting – Consolation Award [Chan Wan Ian, top 10% of 280 entries]
- Active SG-Basketball Association of Singapore Development League (Inter-School) - C Div Girls – 3rd, C Div Boys – 4th

Staff

- Association of Academy of Singapore Teachers Award – Ms Teng Siew Lee, Lead Teacher/Chemistry
- Certificate of Recognition as a Member of MOE Teachers Council – Mr Clement See, SH/NE & VIA

Ex-students

- Leonna Chua Wan Ling (2014 Sec 4F), Quek Boon Tian (2016 Sec 4E5) – Temasek Polytechnic Scholarship/Freshmen Scholarship

Parent Engagement - Parents are welcomed to participate in the following programmes to be more involved in your child's school life:

- PSG Parenting Talk organised by parents for parents (Fri, 18 Jan, 7pm): “Managing Screen Time without Scream Time”. For more information or sign-up, please go to bit.ly/2LYhmuO
- Chinese New Year Celebrations (Mon, 4 Feb 7:30- 10:30am): Co-hosting of elderly guests by staff and PSG members
- PSG Welcome Brunch for Sec 1 parents interested in joining the PSG (Sat, 16 Feb morning, CVSS)
- Education and Career Guidance Parents' Forum for Sec 4/5 (Thu, 14 Mar, 8 to 11am): Talks and panel discussion by invited speakers from post-secondary institutions and our Senior ECG Counsellor.

Please keep a look out and register for these activities nearing the dates or call the General Office for more information.

We look forward to working closely with all parents/guardians as partners-in-education. Thank you.

Mr Chia Chor Yann, Principal