



COMPASSVALE SECONDARY SCHOOL 康柏中学

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School Motto: *Realising the Star Within*

23 Mar 2020

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Updated School Calendar 2020

Due to Covid-19, the school has revised our school calendar as attached. Some of the key changes are;

- Annual Anniversary & Awards (A&A) Day has been cancelled and combined with next year's A&A Day. Current students will receive their prizes/awards later in Term 2 or 3 at flag-raising or assembly period when we are able to resume mass assembly. Graduated students will receive their prizes and awards at next year's A&A Day.
- Elective Modules and Advanced Elective Modules for all Sec 3 students have been postponed until further notice by ITE and the polytechnics.
- All overseas trips have been postponed to year-end.
- Mid-Year Meet The Form Teacher (MTFT) for all parents – In view of COVID-19, we will also cancel our face-to-face MTFT sessions this year. Form teachers will instead contact you through phone to give verbal feedback on the progress and holistic development of your child. Result slips will be issued to your child directly before the end of term. More details may be provided nearer the date.

Staff Email Address

Parents' Gateway has served us well as our main channel of communication with parents since 2019. On the other hand, we understand parents often have difficulties reaching the teachers by phone on specific matters concerning their children. As such, we have provided the list of email addresses of all key personnel, teachers and allied educators (AEDs) as attached for the convenience of all parents. For general enquiries, you may call the school's General Office during office hours.

Please be reminded that teachers may be contacted during school hours on week days, term time (ie. Between 7.30am and 6.00pm if the teachers are in school) but are not expected to respond after working hours or during weekends or school/public holidays. In addition, we seek your kind understanding that teachers may only be able to respond on the next working day or within 3 working days. For urgent matters, please contact the school's General Office for assistance.

Direct School Admission (DSA)

For 2021 Sec 1 intake, our school has expanded our existing talent area of aeronautics to include STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Math), ie. "STEM – Aeronautics", as well as added two new talent areas in softball (boys only) and floorball (boys and girls). We hope this will provide more opportunities for talented P6 pupils in these areas to apply to our school to pursue their passion and interests further. In addition, we plan to introduce astronautics in our aeronautics applied learning programme gradually and rename the programme as *aerospace applied learning programme* in the near future [Aerospace is defined as the human effort in science, engineering, and business to fly in the atmosphere of Earth (Aeronautics) and surrounding space (Astronautics)].

Dropping off your child during rainy days

Parents who drive your children to school are kindly reminded to drop your children off at the designated point between Block 296A and 296B even in wet weather, instead of driving into the school. There is a covered walkway from the drop off point all the way into the school compound. Please also refrain from dropping your child off along Compassvale Crescent. Thank you for your cooperation.

Changes to 2020 Transport eVouchers for Students Receiving MOE/SAC Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS)

As announced in parliament recently, the public transport subsidy for students on MOE FAS will be increased from \$10 to \$15 per month from April 2020. Accordingly, our school will do the same for students on SAC FAS as well.

Highlights of School Programmes/Events in Term 1/2020

- **Commemoration of Total Defence (TD) Day** - In line with the theme 'Together We Keep Singapore Strong', our CCE Department organised a series of activities to commemorate TD this year. These include screening of video clips on Digital Defence and a TD song, "There's a Part for Everyone", that was written in 1984 when TD was first launched. Students also discussed how we should respond to Covid-19 and SG United. Sec 3 students had the privilege of attending a TD Carnival with booths featuring the 6 pillars of TD set up by our uniformed group CCAs, and learnt first aid, play simulation games and taste army rations and wartime food.
- **Chinese New Year Celebration** – The school celebrated the joyous occasion with a concert put up by our students, staff and alumni. A new highlight was the cultural dance performance by Singapore Dance Ensemble which enthralled all the audience with their skills and choreography. As a tradition, the school and PSG co-hosted 42 elderly residents from Henderson Heights this year to celebrate CNY together with the students and staff. As usual, the elderly guests enjoyed a sumptuous porridge breakfast sponsored by our Western food canteen stallholder, with added abalone sponsored by Mr Lee Kang Hwa, our SAC Chairman. Mr Lee also prepared hongbaos for each of the elderly while our PSG distributed gift hampers comprising items donated by PSG members to all of them.
- **International Students' Bonding Programme** – To embrace and appreciate diversity, a bonding session was organised to welcome the Sec 1 International Students. In conjunction with the CNY period, students learned about Chinese zodiacs, and made their own Chinese couplets. They also had a taste of local beverages, Malay food and CNY goodies. The IS and their Singaporean buddies also attended the Chingay Parade which showcased Singapore's uniquely multicultural street and floats extravaganza.
- **STAR 1 Programme** – Guided by the theme '*Seek Out Your Strengths*', the Sec 1s went through a series of workshops on strengths-finding through the use of a personal profiling tool and The Leadership Challenge, while the Sec 2s & 3s gained greater awareness of their social-emotional competencies (SEC) by taking the SEC Inventory. These were done to help our North Stars discover their personal strengths, equip them with strategies to develop their personal strengths, and enable them to apply what they learn to develop stronger personal effectiveness and build stronger relationships. The students learnt to '*Take Responsibility*' for themselves and others through Social Skills training where the Sec 2s picked up skills like speaking up with confidence, while Sec 3s learnt how to recognise others' emotions and organising time and tasks. To enable the students to '*Adopt An Enterprising Spirit*' and develop resilience, the Sec 1s were involved in some camp craft, while Sec 3s went through a VIA workshop and applied their learning through planning for their VIA project. Last but not least, Sec 4/5s went through the '*Ready for the World*' programme where they

learnt about personal effectiveness and personal branding. They also attended talks by lecturers from post-secondary institutions and professional from various industries to find out more about possible education and career options.

Highlights of Departmental Programmes in Term 1/2020

- **EL Dept** – As part of our Language and Literary Appreciation Programme, all students went through a classroom engagement package during one ‘Assembly’ hour. A special video was produced by the dept and screened, where our signature ‘Speak for Success @ CVSS’ programme was launched. The video showcased students’ achievements in the National Public Speaking Competition 2019, and these students presented useful speaking tips to their schoolmates in the style of a talk show. In the ‘World Book Day’ segment, students were also treated to colourful pictures of EL and Literature teachers dressed like storybook characters, as they learnt about recommended good reads. An inter-class competition was conducted and individuals and classes who correctly guessed who the teachers were awarded prizes.
- **Fun with Math Prog** – Our Math dept conducted its annual intra and inter class Sudoku Challenge across all levels/streams. Sudoku puzzles help students sharpen their problem solving skills in a fun and competitive way. All students participated enthusiastically and we are proud of many of them trying their best to solve the puzzles. The dept also conducted a Rubik’s Cube Workshop for interested students and teachers for the first time. The workshop was conducted by Mr Absalom Wong, an international Rubik’s Cube competitor free of charge. Participants learnt the heuristics to solve the puzzles and were inspired by Mr Wong to keep practising and improve their timings.
- **MTL Dept** - As part of our Lower Secondary CL Oracy Programme, Sec 1 EXP students attended Chinese Speech and Drama lessons conducted by Hokkien Huay Kuan while NA/NT students developed their oratorical skills through comics drawing and presentation. Sec 2 EXP students attended a Basic Journalism workshop and role play as journalists to interview their peers and teachers, while 2NA students got to build their confidence in CL through a Basic Super Host workshop. Through the DJ Hosting workshop, our ML students learnt to be a deejay and the skills to converse with strangers on air.

School/Student/Staff Achievements/Awards achieved or announced in Term 1/2020

- **2020 BCA Green Mark Goldplus Award** – our school has been given the award based on the Green Mark Criteria for Existing Schools.
- **E-book project on school’s efforts in environment sustainability and climate change** – Our school is working on an e-book project by Mr Joachim Sim, an independent writer, editor and publisher, to feature 10 schools that have been recognised for their extraordinary environmental sustainability journey and achievements, and how exemplary Singapore schools are teaching students to help save our planet, with the aim of promoting environmental responsibility among the young. Since receiving the PUB’s Watermark Award in 2013, we have achieved more milestones in providing environmental education for our students through various programmes, projects and partnerships. This is a testimony of our school’s sustained efforts in environmental sustainability.
- **D&T** – 2nd Runners-Up in Creative Design Challenge under ITE College East Annual Robotics Challenge 2020 (Rifqi Aqil bin Mohd Rafi 3E5, Koh Tze Wang 3E6)
- **Uniformed Groups CCA** - NPCC (2019 Overall Unit Proficiency Award – Gold), Girl Guides (2019 Puan Noor Aishah Award – Gold)
- **Sports CCA** - Softball B Div Boys (National Schools Softball Championships – Round 2)

Good deeds by our students

A member of the public wrote in to compliment Wang Zilin (Sec 1E2) for the kindness extended to her when she felt nauseous and vomited on the bus. Zilin provided her tissue and helped clear the mess. According to her, “It was an awkward moment to say the least, but Zilin’s willingness to help without any hesitation, her body language, and the concern she showed, truly exhibited her empathy, compassion and warmth towards a fellow passenger. She truly made my day and created an impact in my life!”

Inspiring Teacher of English Award

The above award jointly presented by the Straits Times and Speak Good English Movement, and supported by MOE has been open for nominations on 10 Feb and will close by 5pm, 3 Apr. Students, parents and teachers are invited to send in nominations for teachers who exemplify the use of good spoken and written English, promote learner-focused interaction during EL lessons and choose pedagogies appropriate to learners’ readiness, interests and learning profiles. Nomination forms may be downloaded from www.goodenglish.org.sg. Thank you for your support for our EL teachers.

Parent Engagement

- In view of COVID-19, term 1 events such as the ECG Parents forum has been cancelled and PSG Welcome Brunch has been postponed till further notice.
- We would like to thank one of our PSG EXCO members for his generous donation of forty 5-litre bottles of hand sanitiser and empty dispenser bottles for each classroom. These have been distributed to all classrooms when school reopened.
- MOE recently announced in parliament efforts to strengthen Cyber Wellness education, and power up digital literacy in schools. As such, MOE is organising a 3-part engagement series on “What’s Your Take: Navigating the Digital Jungle” for parents to come together to learn from each other, share perspectives, and develop solutions for the wider parent community in the area of Cyber Wellness. If you are interested, please refer to the post on Parents Gateway for more details or sign up at <https://go.gov.sg/registerwyt>. The school has recently posted a Parent Kit on Parent Gateway to share some tips on how you can help your child navigate the online space safely, such as guiding your child on time spent online, online etiquette and responsible behaviour, and teaching your child to stay safe online. If you have missed it, you may wish to refer to the post on “[Parent Kit] Keep your child safe online”.

Thank you and best regards,



Mr Chia Chor Yann, Principal