



Anglo-Chinese School (Barker Road)

A Methodist Institution
(Founded 1886)

2 September 2020

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Singapore's 55th birthday celebrations just passed and like everything that has been touched by Covid-19, the plans were drastically different from previous celebrations with the safe management measures in place. However, I thought that the organizers used this opportunity to move the celebrations closer to the citizens and made National Day a more poignant event. I stood with my family along the road outside our place of residence to cheer the mobile columns that passed by and had a great time interacting with fellow Singaporeans gathered there. As a family, we thoroughly enjoyed the celebrations at the Star Theatre which was made for television viewing with its spectacular virtual sets.

In the midst of the celebrations and enjoyment, I was quietly thankful that, as a people, we did not let the inconveniences of safe management measures or the fear of the pandemic turn us to despair. Instead, we put on our thinking caps to ensure that we clung on to hope amidst a very tough year. In that process, it made National Day even more enjoyable and personal against the backdrop of the pandemic and economic hardship. I hope this is the lesson our ACS (BR) gentlemen will take away from this year. Despair is not the default option in dark times. They have a choice to think differently and think out of the box to cling on to hope and optimism and in doing so, their choice will affect those around them.

On Teachers Day, I want to pay tribute to my staff for all that they have done this year amidst the myriad of changes due to Covid-19. Echoing Professor Jason Tan from NIE in his commentary on CNA on 29 August, *"...educators have had to play new roles, like nurse, IT support and social worker, all at once. Suddenly becoming health promoters overnight, educators had to first educate students about safety measures such as social distancing, wipe-down routines and personal hygiene and take actions to keep concerns from worried parents at bay. They also had to pay greater attention to students' emotional health.*

Second, many educators were taken by surprise by the abrupt closure of educational institutions. They had to assume the role of information and communications technology (ICT) champions and managers. Most have experienced a steep learning curve, grappling with the task of editing videos and conducting lessons through digital platforms without the familiarity of face-to-face contact with their students. They also had to familiarise their students with these new ways of learning.

Despite initial challenges, the good news is many have emerged adept at this task. Educators have risen to the challenge of returning to their roots to find fresh ways to spark creativity, interest and learning." The contributions of admin staff, operations support officers, allied educators and teachers ensured that the education in ACS (Barker Road) continue to be delivered in a safe and healthy environment. It also showed the resilience and inventive spirit of the community here in ACS (Barker Road).



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Staff Achievements and Awards

The **MOE Innergy Awards** aim to recognise individuals/teams at the ministry level, for successfully developing and implementing innovations to bring about significant benefits and impact in their workplaces. This year we are proud of two of our teams for achieving Gold and Bronze awards respectively.

Award	Recipients	Description of project
Gold	1. Mr Ngiam Xing Yi 2. Ms Wong Qi Shan 3. Mr Alexis Ho	With 360° cameras, teachers created a VR world by filming 360° videos and students immersed themselves in this environment by using Google Cardboards. The use of Virtual Reality (VR) augmented the ethnographic experience of Geographical Investigation.
Bronze	1. Ms Chu Pei Yun 2. Mr Lin Junrong Lionel	To ensure a smoother transition into Secondary school, and to help students with autism feel more prepared and confident, we developed a formal transition support programme for all ASD students. This included a transition support briefing session for these students and their parents as well as a guided tour of the school. This programme has received positive feedback from parents.

At the **National Day Awards**, Mr Jeffrey Tan (Vice-Principal) and Mr Oh Boon Teck (Senior Teacher / Geography) were awarded The Commendation Medal while Mrs Catherine Wong was awarded The Long Service Medal.

Mrs Aw Meng Yin (Vice-Principal) was recognized for thirty years of faithful service to the Methodist schools, Mr Kasmuri and Mrs Cecilia Tan were recognized for twenty-five years of service and Mr Chong Meng Lieng (Senior School Counsellor) was recognized for twenty years of service. These long service awards were given by the Methodist Church in Singapore in recognition of faithful service to the educational mission of the church.

Student Achievements

With the cancellation of National Schools Games and other competitions, our students still managed to bring honour to the school. Matthew Hamnett represented Singapore for Ice Hockey in the 3rd Winter Youth Olympic Games 2020 in Lausanne in January this year. Our Uniformed Groups have also done well at their respective Inter-Unit competitions.

- Boys Brigade – J M Fraser Gold Award
- Scouts & Ventures – Frank Cooper Sands Gold Award
- National Police Cadet Corp (NPCC) – Silver Award



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The table below summarizes the individual awards conferred on our students by the respective Uniformed Groups.

Individual Award	Recipient(s)
Boys Brigade Founder's Award	1. Warrant Officer Ian Chia 4H1 2. Warrant Officer Johnson Hung 4S1 3. Warrant Officer Benjamin Loke 4S1 4. Staff Sgt Ryan Chan 4S1 5. Warrant Officer Samuel Chan 4S2 6. Staff Sgt Samuel Loo 4S2 7. Staff Sgt Aiken Ng 4S3
Boys Brigade President's Award for Primers	1. SCL Evan Lim Shouwang (class of 2018)
National Cadet Corp (Sea) Outstanding Cadet Award	1. Master Sergeant Jack Jonah Kirkwood

Safe Management Measures for Arrival and Dismissal Time

As we approach the final term of the year, I want to thank you for your strong support for the school in helping your son's learning and supporting his adjustment to school routines. The students have been following the safe distancing measures and daily wearing of masks in general although a small number still needs to be reminded. I hope you will join the school to remind your child not to be complacent but to continue to be vigilant in keeping to the safe management measures for his own health and well-being as well as for the well-being of others in their family and community.

For arrival to school, students should continue to use all five entrance points to the school. To avoid congestion, students are encouraged to use the staircases, instead of the lift at the Transport Centre, to get to the school building.

Staggered dismissal timing continues in Term 4 according the schedule below.

Level	Dismissal Time	
	Mondays – Thursdays	Fridays
Secondary 4 & 5	2.10pm	1.10pm
Secondary 3	2.10pm	
Secondary 2	2.20pm	1.20pm
Secondary 1	2.30pm	1.30pm

After curriculum time, students continue to be encouraged to return home if they are not scheduled for any after-school activities.

General Safe Management Measures

The following safe management measures remain in place to keep our students safe.



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1. Daily temperature-taking with visual screening will continue to be carried out for all students and staff. A second temperature-taking exercise will take place for activities after school.
2. Students and staff who are unwell, or who have adult household members on Home Quarantine Order / Stay Home Notice / Leave of Absence or have flu-like symptoms such as fever and cough, will be required to stay away from school.
3. The school will clean high-touch surfaces frequently and disinfect the premises daily.
4. Students and staff are required to wear their masks throughout the day except when consuming food during breaks.
5. Students will need to wash their hands frequently throughout the school day and do wipe down of tables and shared equipment after use.
6. Intermingling across classes and levels will be minimised.
7. There will be fixed exam-style seating in classrooms and spaced seating in canteens and other common areas.

Thank you once again for your support.

Yours sincerely,

Loo Ming Yaw
Principal