

22 Dec 2022

Newsletter to Parents – The Year-End Edition

Dear Parent/Guardian,

As the newly-appointed 12th Principal of our school, I am delighted to join our community of learning and growth. While walking around school and being at events such as SuperNova 2022 (a combined choir performance by 7 schools including Xinmin), I have met and am inspired by members of our community: students using learning spaces for self-study and CCA, teachers sharing wonderful ideas and honing their craft at our year-end professional development session, student leaders going through their plans for Sec 1 Orientation with me, parents accompanying their child to purchase books for 2023, alumni returning to school to guide their juniors in CCA, and many more! We are truly a vibrant community of learning and growth, and I look forward to continuing to get to know our stories and aspirations.

I believe that education is a window to the world for our students: enabling our young to discover their interests and talents, and preparing them for the future – not just the next stage of education, but also for life and lifelong learning. Just as my own teachers provided rich learning opportunities and inspired my dream to be an educator since I was a secondary school student, I will lead and journey alongside my colleagues to nurture every Xinmin student entrusted to us with firm, strong, and caring hands. Together, we will develop our students holistically in the character and academic domains, so that after their 4 to 5 year journey at Xinmin, our students will blossom with strong outcomes that enable them to realise their aspirations at post-secondary and beyond, and with competencies to thrive in an uncertain and complex world.

As parents, you are your child's first teachers, and you continue to play a critical role in his or her learning and growth. I thank you for your continued support of the school and our programmes, and look forward to partnering you in our shared purpose of developing your child and preparing your child for the future!

First Week of School for 2023 (3 Jan to 6 Jan)

The new 2023 school year will start on 3 Jan (Tue). To support our students in starting the new school year well, we have designed a First Week of School Programme with different activities planned for each cohort. The detailed schedule would be shared with students on the first day of school. Please note that the dismissal time for 3 Jan to 5 Jan will be earlier at 12 pm while the dismissal time for 6 Jan will be the usual 12.40 pm for Fridays.

If your child/ward has fever and/or flu-like symptoms, please consult a doctor. Your child/ward should refrain from being in school until he/she has fully recovered. Please contact the school via email at xinminss_email@schools.gov.sg or call 6288 9382 if your child/ward is unwell and unable to be in school.

Late Start Day on Thursdays

With effect from Term 1 2023, the late start day will be shifted from Wednesdays to Thursdays. Hence, the reporting time for students will be 7.30 am on all school days, except for Thursdays,

where the reporting time will be at 8.30 am instead. We have made this adjustment as many CCAs have training sessions on Wednesdays and students would appreciate a later start on the day after their CCA.

To streamline the school timetable, our regular fortnightly Home-Based Learning (HBL) Days will be on odd week Thursdays **for all levels**. Students and parents may refer to the class timetables, which will be uploaded [here](#) by 30 Dec (Fri).

Revision in School Canteen Prices

In view of the challenges faced by school canteen stallholders due to higher operating costs, MOE has revised the school canteen pricing guidelines in July 2022. This revision aims to enable canteen stallholders to sustain their livelihood while keeping school canteen food and drinks affordable for students.

After evaluating proposals by our school canteen stallholders, prices of selected items will increase in the range of \$0.10 to \$0.30 with effect from Term 1 2023.

To ensure the affordability of school canteen meals for students from lower-income families, with effect from Term 1 2023, the income eligibility criteria for the MOE Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) will be revised (please click [here](#) for details). The school meal subsidies for secondary students under MOE FAS will also be increased from \$2.90 to \$3.50 per school meal for 10 meals per school week.

First Temperature-Taking Exercise of 2023

To maintain preparedness for temperature-taking and to educate students on taking personal responsibility for their own health, schools conduct temperature-taking exercises twice a year. The first temperature-taking exercise of 2023 will be on 11 Jan (Wed). Please ensure that your child/ward brings a working thermometer that day.

President's Award for Teachers (PAT) and Outstanding Youth Award in Education (OYEA) 2023

Every year, two categories of national awards are given out to teachers in Singapore to recognise their professional excellence. They are the President's Award for Teachers (PAT) and the Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA).

The **President's Award for Teachers (PAT)** gives national recognition to experienced teachers who are role models for the teaching profession. These teachers personify deep passion for teaching, and inspire both their students and peers through their words and deeds.

The **Outstanding Youth in Education Award (OYEA)** gives national recognition to young teachers who are role models for the teaching profession. These teachers personify youthful idealism, energy and enthusiasm, and inspire both their students and peers through their words and deeds. Educators who are 35 years and younger are eligible for the award. Hence, OYEA 2023 is open to educators who are born on or after 30 June 1988.

Nominations for PAT 2023 and OYEA 2023 are now open and will close on 11 Jan 2023 (Wed).

We would like to invite you and your child/ward to submit your nomination(s) by accessing the URLs or scanning the QR codes below.

PAT 2023	OYEA 2023
https://go.gov.sg/pat2023	https://go.gov.sg/oyea2023



For queries and/or feedback about the awards, please email MOE_AST_PAT@moe.gov.sg (PAT 2023) or MOE_AST_OYEA@moe.gov.sg (OYEA 2023). Thank you for your support in recognising the good work of our teachers!

As this is the last newsletter for the year, all of us at Xinmin Secondary School would like to wish you and your family a wonderful Christmas and a joyous New Year! Thank you again for your support for our students and staff!

Yours in education,

Mr Tan Soon Hui
Principal