



# EVERGREEN PRIMARY SCHOOL

31 WOODLANDS CIRCLE SINGAPORE 738908. TEL: 6368 7705 FAX: 6368 8084

Notification No: 139/ 2019

5 July 2019

## Primary 3 Term 3 2019 Level Letter

Dear Parent/Guardian,

Welcome back to another term filled with excitement and fun! We hope you have had a great break with your child. It is important for every one of us to take a step back sometimes, breathe some fresh air , reflect and rediscover ourselves.

In the last semester, the students went through the two different MMP modules and have clearly benefitted from the learning experiences. The performance put up by them in Term 1 was superb and the conversational module that they took allowed them to converse with one another in another language using simple greetings. The growth in the students is evident and we are glad to be part of it. Term 3 will continue to be an exciting term with a series of exciting and fun celebrations and activities planned to engage our pupils.

### Every Student, An Engaged Learner

The level has engaged the students in working towards identifying their talents and working on them. We also provided various platforms for the students to showcase their talents and encouraged the students to step forward to even take the lead during recess. This term, the level will be embarking on new initiatives like **Talent Time** during recess for the students to have more opportunities to showcase their talents and build their confidence. This is also an intentional platform for the students to continue to extend what they have learnt from the MMP modules.

In Term 3, we are focusing on the value "**Graciousness**". Being gracious is to treat others with the tact, kindness and respect that they deserve. It is to put others first, whether they are friends or strangers. A big part of being gracious is being able to appreciate what people do for you. We would like our students to be able to thank people for their efforts, however big or small they are. It can be shown in the smile, a gesture or even in the tone of the voice. We hope, by being other-centered, can develop better relationships among people, and towards building a gracious society.



### **P3 MMP: Sports Module – Swimsafer**

The Primary 3 students will go through the Swimsafer programme under MMP in Term 3. The programme enables students to acquire basic swimming skills and water confidence with a more rigorous water survival competency. Under this enhanced programme, students will go through 9 lessons at Singapore Sports School during their curriculum time. Besides, students' practice time and skills progression in the pool, there will also be an online quiz to enable students to consolidate their knowledge of water safety and different water conditions. Finally, the students will showcase their competencies effectively and efficiently during the assessment session at the end of the programme. Students who are already competent swimmers will then go through a more advance programme and assessment.

#### **Swimsafer Schedule**

Session	Date	Day
1	10 Jul	Wednesdays
2	17 Jul	
3	24 Jul	
4	31 Jul	
5	7 Aug	
6	14 Aug	
7	21 Aug	
8	28 Aug	
9	4 Sept	

Next, I would like to share an article written by Ms Diana Ser, a famous journalist, Channel NewsAsia presenter, as well as former Television Corporation of Singapore (TCS) actress and host.

The Japanese parents at the next table were poker-faced, but I know they saw me feeding my six-year-old. And somehow, I felt as though they were judging me.

We were on a lunch break in a diner in a Japanese ski town during the recent March school holidays. While I alternately cajoled and threatened my six-year-old to eat another mouthful of rice, the two-year-old angel in her Daddy's lap next door was placidly feeding herself.

If she was not so adorable, I would hate her.

It was not hard to tell us apart from the locals. My three monkeys were bickering with one another, then dropping their jackets, then removing their shoes. The Japanese children, however, remained calmly rooted to their seats — no drama, no fuss.

Some may say "no fun", but seriously, would I give up some fun for a peaceful meal?

Is sushi made of rice?

In the five days that we spent in Tokyo, I do not recall witnessing a meltdown from any child in a public place. In fact, all I saw were picture-perfect Japanese toddlers just begging to be praised.

So, I wanted to know: Why are Japanese kids so well behaved, at least in public? As always, one starts with the parents. Specifically, the Japanese style of parenting.

## ALL ABOUT GRACIOUSNESS

In Japanese culture, a “gracious society” is not a campaign tagline. Graciousness, according to the Japanese, **is essential to being human.**

Just look at this widely used definition of discipline (shitsuke) from a Japanese folklore dictionary: “Putting into the body of a child, the art of living and good manners, in order to create one grown-up person”.

So, one is not complete in one’s development until good manners are in place.

It is no wonder that Japanese parents and pre-schools work hard at nurturing toddlers, who will become gracious members of society. And integral to graciousness is a respect for public spaces.

“The early introduction of ‘manners’ (includes) teaching children respect for public spaces. This plays a major role in how Japanese kids behave,” said my friend’s Japanese wife.

Keiko cited an example of how Japanese parents would remove their child’s shoes if they stood on the seats in subway trains. This is done out of consideration for the next user, she said.

In kindergartens, etiquette is an object of overriding concern in the training of young children. Says Keiko: “Teachings, both in school and at home, are consistent, and are constantly instilled in the child.”

This reminds me of my experience with a Japanese teacher. When my son was 10 months old, we joined one of those Japanese right-brain training programmes. Those were the days when the instructors came from Japan.

Whenever a baby fussed, she would advise the caregiver to step aside with the child and try to calm him or her down. If that did not work, she would tell the person to exit the classroom and return only when the child was ready. This was so as to not disrupt the rest of the class.

That may seem like common sense, but to a first-time mum like me back then, it was quite an education. Clearly, there are times when parents need to be “socialised” along with the child.

## IT DOES TAKES A VILLAGE

Being in Japan, however briefly, has underscored the old adage that “it takes a village to raise a child”. There has to be an acceptance of certain values at the societal level, if we wish for our kids to become gracious adults.

Overheard in the train on my recent trip: “We Japanese do not like people talking on the phone in the subway. It is impolite to others.”

An American woman had asked a Japanese commuter why there were signs exhorting people not to talk on their mobile phones. And haven’t we all encountered that nasty handphone user in a crowded train? Or in a lift, for that matter.

According to Demographia World Urban Areas, which provides annual estimates of urban population density, Singapore ranked 198th, while Tokyo came in at 654th in 2016. Yes, it seems we have the dubious honor of beating Tokyo in population density. Thus, ensuring graciousness and thoughtfulness in public spaces is not just good to have. It is essential to our collective sanity.

From January, students in Singapore — from primary schools all the way to junior colleges — have to spend some time cleaning their classrooms and public spaces. Should the little ones in preschool join the “movement” too? How about bringing back Singa, the courtesy lion, just for them?

And what of families that have domestic help? How can we reinforce the same values at home, when Auntie is always ready to clean up the mess for the child?

I am still searching for answers within my own household.

*Taken from : <http://www.dianaser.com/what-we-can-learn-from-japanese-parents/>*

### **Every Parent, A Supportive Partner**

#### *Building on Trust, Partnering as One*

The article by Ms Diana Ser emphasized how educating values in our children begins from home. As parents, we must constantly ensure that we spend time to nurture the values and also be a good role model to them.

How can you be involved?

As a parent, you can do some of the following to nurture graciousness in your child:

1. Make sure they understand why
2. Define “grace”
3. Cultivate a gracious heart
4. Model it
5. Appreciate it to reinforce it

(For more information, you can visit the website: <https://www.imom.com/good-character-for-kids-how-to-raise-gracious-kids/#.XQcbDogzZPY/>)

### **EGPS is on Social Media!**

We are excited to announce that we have established a presence on both Facebook and Instagram recently. We will be utilizing our social media pages to make updates on school programmes, share photographs, videos and important announcements. Our pages will also be featuring our very own EGPS students and teachers as they participate in the various activities and share their experiences with us. Do consider going to the pages to click “like” and “follow” us. It will be a worthwhile and interesting experience as visitors can get to know more about the school’s programmes and objectives. Hope to see you there!



## Parents Gateway

Parents gateway is a mobile app by MOE and GovTech aimed at connecting parents and schools on key administrative matters. We would strongly encourage parents to come onboard this application. The app is readily downloadable via App store or Playstore. To use the app you will require your SINGPASS.



The following QR codes are provided for SingPass registration and 2-Factor activation should you require.



We have noticed that some of our students were absent from the recent SA1 examinations without medical certificate or valid reasons. Please note that we treat this very seriously. Once again, we would like to emphasize the following:

A **medical certificate** or a **letter** signed by parents explaining the reason for his/her absence from school is mandatory. If your child misses any examination / assessment, a valid medical certificate has to be submitted. Medical certificate from Traditional Chinese Medical clinics will not be accepted. A zero grade will be given if a medical certificate is not submitted upon returning to school. The school will not have a make-up or reschedule the dates of Written and Listening Comprehension examinations / assessments.

### Every Teacher, A Caring Educator

We would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Mdm Shireen and her family on the birth of their baby boy. She will be on maternity leave till term 4.

Do feel free to contact or e-mail your child's form teacher should you require any clarification. You can also contact me (poh\_chin\_fung@moe.edu.sg) should you have any queries pertaining to the level.

The following annexes are attached for your reference.

Annex A: Programmes / Events / Activities for Term 3

We seek your patience in thoroughly reading the contents of the letters. Please keep the newsletters issued termly for future reference. Do contact or email your child's form teacher if you need any clarifications or have any concerns. It is strongly recommended that you call the office at **6368 7705** to make an appointment with your child's teacher should you wish to meet her.

Kindly acknowledge the receipt of this letter and return the acknowledgement slip via your child/ward to his form teacher by 10 July.

Thank You.



Yours faithfully,  
Mrs May Tan  
Primary 3 and 4 Year Head

cc. Mrs Rabia Shahul (P), Mrs Pearlyn Wai (VP) and Mrs Eunice Lim (VP)



(Annex A)

**Primary 3 (Programmes / Events / Activities) – Term 3**

<b>Programme / Event / Activity</b>	<b>Date</b>	<b>Remarks</b>
1. Mother Tongue Fortnight	9 to 19 July 2019	<i>(More details will be provided at a later date)</i>
2. Youth Day Holiday (School holiday)	8 July 2019	Students do not need to report to school
3. National Day Celebration and National Day Holiday	8 and 9 August 2019	Students will be dismissed at 9.30am ( 8 August)
4. Hari Raya Haji (School Holiday)	12 August 2019	Students do not report to school
5. PSLE Oral Examination	15 – 16 August 2019	P1 to P5 students do not report to school
6. GEP Exercise	23 August 2019	Details will be provided closer to the date
7. Teachers' Day Celebration	5 September 2019	Students will be dismissed at 12.30 p.m.
8. Teachers' Day (School Holiday)	6 September 2019	Students do not report to school
9. Term 3 break	7 to 15 September 2019	Students do not report to school

