



WEST GROVE PRIMARY SCHOOL
1, JURONG WEST STREET 72 SINGAPORE 649223
TEL NO: 62679234 FAX NO: 62679235

Letter To Parents (Term 3)

4 July 2023

Dear Parents

Greetings!

We welcome our children back for an exciting and engaging learning experience in Term 3. I believe that you have spent some wonderful moments with your children during the holidays and they are all energised and inspired to be back in school.

Our children's learning, safety and well-being will continue to be our top priorities and children should be encouraged and motivated to stay focused on their learning and work towards achieving their goals and aspirations. We will continue to anchor them in strong values so that they continue to grow in confidence and resilience.

Let me share a short story

One day a farmer's donkey fell into a well. The animal cried piteously for hours as the farmer tried to figure out what to do. Finally, he decided the animal was old, and the well needed to be covered up anyway-it just wasn't worth it to retrieve the donkey. He invited all of his neighbors to come over and help him. They all grabbed a shovel and began to shovel dirt into the well. At first, the donkey realized what was happening and cried horribly. Then, to everyone's amazement, it became quiet.

A few shovel loads later, the farmer finally looked down the well. He was astonished at what he saw. With each shovel of dirt that hit his back, the donkey was doing something amazing. It would shake it off and take a step up. As the farmer's neighbors continued to shovel dirt on top of the animal, it would shake it off and take a step up. Pretty soon, everyone was amazed as the donkey stepped up over the edge of the well and happily trotted off!

Life is going to shovel 'dirt' on you, all kinds of challenges, difficult moments, and failures. Take each of this as a learning experience - Shake it off and take a step up. Each is a steppingstone to make a positive difference for us. We can get out of the deepest wells just by not stopping, never giving up! Shake it off and take a step up.

Our children must always give off their best and overcome difficulties and challenges with courage and determination. Like a pencil they must continue to sharpen themselves to become better.



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As parents and teachers, we are an integral part of their journey. We must work together to ensure that our children are active and engaged learners and become gracious friends. *Active Minds & Gracious Hearts is the way forward!*

*Life throws challenges but with patience and resilience, you can convert every challenge into a new opportunity to grow.
Our life is shaped by our mind, for we become what we think.*

Best Wishes!

Mrs Chandler Jay Siva
Principal



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Staff Updates

1. Staff Leaving

We thank Mdm Siti Rashidah Binte Abdul Rahman (Vice-Principal) for her contributions to the school. We wish her all the best in her new endeavours.

2. New Staff

We are pleased to welcome the following staff to the school.

- I. Mrs Chermaine Chong (Vice-Principal)
- II. Ms Nur Farah Bte Rahmat (Teacher)

3. Redesignation

We are excited to announce that our teacher Ms Nur Indahiryana will be redesignated as our School Counsellor with effect from 26 June 2023. Ms Nur has been with our school for several years and has a wealth of experience working with students of all ages.

As our new School Counsellor, Ms Nur will be available to provide counselling services to students who may be struggling with a variety of issues. She can be contacted via email at nur_indahiryana_mohamed_amran@moe.edu.sg should you need her services.

We believe that Ms Nur's experience and expertise will be a valuable asset to our school community, and we look forward to working with her in this new role.

Contacting our Staff

You can contact our staff through the following platforms:

- General Office hotline: **62679234** (from 7.00 am to 5.30 pm (Mon to Fri))
- Email (Refer to <http://westgrovepri.moe.edu.sg>)
- Student Handbook

Please remind your child to approach the general office for assistance when they are not picked up after school. In addition, parents are encouraged to approach school staff for any concerns and assistance required with regards to student matters.



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Reminders on School Rules

We would like to remind parents about the appropriate hairstyles for students. Boys are required to have short, uniform-length hair. Outlandish hairstyles will need to be rectified. Girls are required to pin up their fringes so that their foreheads are not covered. Hair should be tied up with black bands if it touches their shoulders.

The school also strongly discourages students from wearing smartwatches to school as they are a form of distraction to students during lessons. They are also not allowed during school and national examinations.

School Improvement Updates

With the recent General Repair and Retrofitting (GR&R) which occurs every 5-7 years, the school is happy to share with parents that the school has completed the following upgrading works.

The entire school both interior and exterior has been painted in vibrant colors. 4 toilets have undergone upgrading and school will continue to upgrade the remaining toilets in due course. To prevent slips and falls, anti-slip coating has been applied at the washing area in the school canteen. The School Aviary which is not a standard school feature has been torn down to increase play and PE venues for our students. The Multi-purpose School Hall timber flooring has been sand down and given a fresh coat of varnish to provide a more conducive setting. Due to wear and tear, the glass blocks at the Library Block have been removed and will be replaced with a wall and larger window panels. Library facilities can be still used as usual. This is expected to be completed by end of 2023.

Racial Harmony Day

Our school will commemorate Racial Harmony Day (RHD) on **Friday 21 July 2023**. The RHD theme for this year is *Singapore: Our Multicultural Mosaic*. A photo gallery with photos of parents and children engaging in activities involving different ethnic groups to show how Racial Harmony is strengthened with parents leading by example will be screened during Assembly (18th July) as well as around the school. We hope to nurture in our students the spirit of graciousness and respect in their interactions with friends of other races and religions through interactive class and recess activities taking place that week. Exhibits on Performing Arts and Games aim to promote students' appreciation of multiculturalism and social cohesion.

On the day of the commemoration (**21st July**), your child/ward is encouraged to put on his/her traditional costumes, with black school shoes and white socks. Students who do not have traditional costumes may come in their school uniform.



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National Day

This year's National Day theme is "Onward As One". It calls upon Singaporeans to look forward confidently and move onward together in building our shared future as one united people.

Apart from the school-wide concert celebration, the National Day 2023 Committee has also planned a series of activities during curriculum and recess. We hope to commemorate our nation's independence in an exciting and meaningful manner such that our students celebrate with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervor.

Teacher's Day

"Whoever teaches learns in the act of teaching, and whoever learns teaches in the act of learning."

- Paulo Freire -

Teaching and learning are reciprocal acts. Educators cannot do one without the other. They commit themselves to lifelong learning and imbue in students this passion so that the future of our generations will keep learning and improving in tomorrow's world.

Our school will be celebrating Teachers' Day on **Thursday, 31 August 2023**. The theme this year is "A Journey of Love and Learning". As part of the school's efforts to thank and show appreciation to our teachers, we would like to invite parents and students to upload your messages of appreciation onto our Padlet links which will be shared at a later date.

Practicing Gratitude

As the new school term starts, it may take a while to get back into routine. A change in routine invariably invokes stress for everyone.

Practicing gratitude can invoke positive emotions and feelings that can help our children cope with stress. Click on the links or use the QR code below to find out why we should practice gratitude and how to do it.



<https://go.gov.sg/practicegratitude>



www.schoolbag.edu.sg/story/gratitude

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Parenting with MOE

Connect, share, celebrate and grow parenting with MOE. Get updated on the latest education policies and engage with MOE and other educational professionals on parenting strategies and tips on MOE's Instagram. Click on the link or use the QR code below to access it.



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