



Geylang Methodist School (Secondary)
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21 June 2023

2023 TERM 3 LETTER

Dear Parents/Guardians,

Greetings from GMS(S) and we hope you have had a good time bonding with your child and enjoying quality family time together.

Term 2 was an exciting term for our GEMS. We thank God for our students' grit and perseverance in the various CCAs. For the performing Arts, after months of dedicated hard work. Chinese Dance and Choir achieved the Certificate of Distinction in the 2023 SYF Arts Presentation. Band and Drama walked away with the Certificate of Accomplishment.

In the arena of sports, we are particularly proud of the B Division Volleyball (Boys) and Football (Boys), emerging National Top 7 and Champions of League 5 respectively. Throughout the intense competition period, the boys showed resilience, focus and passion to emerge victorious. C Division Football (Boys) qualified for League 1 and we wish them all the best in their upcoming games.

Members of the Uniformed Groups demonstrated strong teamwork and discipline to achieve Distinction for BB and NPCC and the Company Gold for GB and Girl Guides. A special mention to the GB girls who demonstrated much discipline and unity through months of training to win the National Drill Competition and forged stronger bonds with one another in the process.

We are proud that our GEMS put in hard work, focusing on the process of learning and growing. They learnt that winning is not everything but developing the Growth Mindset of being adaptable, resilient and courageous to navigate the uncertain future is important.

We know that Term 3 will continue to be a busy and exciting term. Our theme for term 3 is 'Making a Positive Difference', guided by the school value of 'Service'. This theme is intended to encourage and challenge every GEM to be more self-less, looking beyond selves to serve the needs of family, friends and community. Some practical ways that our GEMS can make a difference is to actively play their part in sustainability especially in conserving the use of electricity in the classrooms and other parts of the school premises. Feeling grateful and appreciative, is not only good for mental well-being, it can also help our GEMS to give back to society and pave the way forward for someone else.

We look forward to seeing every GEM in the new term and we will continue to journey alongside you and your child to nurture them into passionate learners, courageous leaders and caring citizens, grounded in Godliness, Excellence, Mastery and Service.

May God continue to bless and watch over all of you faithfully!

Yours sincerely,

Mr Victor Owyong
Principal

(A) TERM 3 MAIN SCHOOL EVENTS

Date	Event
Jun 27 Tues	S3 NRIC Registration
Jun 28 Wed	Follow Thursday Time-table
Jun 29 Thurs	Hari Raya Haji Public Holiday
Jun 30 Fri	Sec 4/5 Grad Venture
Jul 3 Mon	Youth Day School Holiday
Jul 4 Tues	GCE O-Level Mother Tongue Listening Comprehension Examinations (All students will be dismissed from school at 1.15 pm to provide a more conducive environment for examination)
Jul 7 Fri	HLB Day
Jul 17 - 21 Mon-Fri Jul 21 Fri	Racial Harmony Day Week Racial Harmony Day
Jul 20 Thurs	HLB Day
Aug 2 Wed	HLB Day (S1-3)
Aug 2 Wed – Aug 23 Wed	Sec 4&5 Preliminary Examinations
Aug 3 Thurs	National Physical Fitness Award Test (S2)
Aug 7 Mon – Aug 17 Thurs	Common Tests (S1-3)
Aug 8 Tues	National Day Celebrations Students will be dismissed by 10.30 am
Aug 9 - 10 Wed - Thurs	National Day Public Holiday and School Holiday
Aug 15 Tues	HLB Day (S1-3)
Aug 22 – 23 Tues - Wed	S1 and S2 HPV Vaccination
Aug 28 Mon	HLB Day
Aug 31 Thurs	Teachers' Day Celebrations Students will be dismissed by 10.30 am
Sep 1 (Fri)	Teachers' Day School Holiday Eat with your family Day
Sep 2 Sat – 10 Sep Sun	Sept Hols

(B) STUDENT WELFARE AND WELL-BEING

Families needing financial support may refer to the following government agency website for assistance: <https://supportgowhere.life.gov.sg/> . Alternatively, your child may approach his/her Form Teachers. Students who are Singapore citizens who wish to apply for MOE Financial Assistance Scheme (FAS) can obtain a copy of the application form from the General Office. Families who need social-emotional support, parenting, financial or counselling services can refer to a Family Service Centre (FSC). You may visit this website to find the FSC nearest your home: <https://www.msf.gov.sg/our-services/directories#familytab>. If your child needs a listening ear or emotional support, he/she may contact our full-time school counsellors (Mr Lewis Lam, at lam_ying_hao@schools.gov.sg, or Ms Lim Soo Ling at lim_soo_ling@schools.gov.sg). They are located at the Counselling Centre in the D&T Block.

(C) STUDENT MANAGEMENT

There has been a rise in the number of youths involved in vaping and tobacco-related offences in Singapore. Vaping at any age, and underaged smoking are illegal. All e-cigarettes, cigarettes and other types of vaporisers are harmful and can adversely affect health and families. Youths who are caught using or possessing such products will be reported to the Health Sciences Authority and disciplinary actions will be taken.

(D) STUDENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMMES

1 CCA matters/Unstructured Play

CCAs will resume from Term 3 Week 1 for all Sec 1 to 3 students. Attendance in CCA is compulsory. Failure to achieve 75% attendance per year will result in a poor LEAPS 2.0 attainment.

Some National C Division School Games for Sports CCAs will also begin in Term 3. Our school will be represented in Bowling, Football, Netball, Softball, and Volleyball.

To encourage play during recesses, the quadrangle and street soccer court are made available. Students are encouraged to practise safety during play and be responsible for one another's well-being.

2 After-school engagement (ASE) programme

A variety of activities are offered after school by adult volunteers to engage our students. Do encourage your child to participate.

Date: Mondays (Refer to the calendar in the school's website for details.)

Time: 2.45 pm to 4.15 pm

Venues: Music Room (Dance), Dance Room (Guitar), SPR403 (Cajon), Sheltered Court (Basketball), Canteen (Study Groups)

(E) Updates on National Digital Literacy Programme

To prepare your child better in learning with the Personalised Learning Device (PLD), all Sec 1 students were assigned a series of self-paced digital literacy modules via SLS in Semester 1 during HBL days. Lockers had been installed outside every class and students can keep their PLDs in the lockers securely when they go for PE lessons, recess or lunch. PLD should be brought home at the end of every school day for charging. Students who have issues with their ICT accounts or PLDs can refer to page 20 and 21 of the Student Diary for support.

(F) GM's Home-Based Learning (HBL)

To nurture self-directed and independent learners who are passionate and intrinsically motivated, we have planned 5 HBL days in Term 3 on Jul 7 (Fri), Jul 20 (Thu), Aug 2 (Wed for S1-3 only), Aug 15 (Tue for S1-3 only) and Aug 28 (Mon). Lessons on HBL days will follow the class Time-table. All announcements, instructions and lesson materials will be assigned via SLS.

(G) SCHOOL EVENTS

1 Racial Harmony Day

To commemorate this day on Jul 21, activities are planned to help students reflect on our shared experiences and values in a multi-racial and multi-religious society like Singapore. More information will be shared with your child nearer the day.

2 NRIC Registration for 15-year-old students

This will be conducted in school on Jun 27 (Tue) afternoon for Singapore Citizens (SC) and Permanent Residents (PR). All 15-year-old students involved in this registration should receive a notification from ICA. As shared in an earlier letter to you, parents are reminded to log into go.gov.sg/icreg with their SingPass to submit the NRIC registration online by Jun 24 (Sat) before the registration appointment in school on Jun 27. You are required to:

- Indicate child's particulars
- Upload child's photograph and supporting documents (where applicable)
- Make payment for your child's NRIC application (\$10 for SC / \$50 for PR)

3 National Day Celebrations

Celebrated on Aug 8 (Tues) with an observance ceremony and meaningful activities, this year's theme "Onward As One Stronger Together, Majulah" is a call for all Singaporeans to look forward confidently and move onward together in building our shared future as one united people. "Onward" reflects a nation that is forward-looking and resilient. "As One" underscores the collective ownership, inclusivity and unity. "Stronger Together" requires us to forge ahead, united in our diversity.

4 Teachers' Day Celebrations

We will celebrate Teachers' Day on Aug 31 (Thurs). Led by the Student Council, the celebrations will include performances and games put up by students, CCA groups and also showcases GM's Talent-time 'GEMS Got Talent'. The theme for this year is *Blooming with you*.

(H) LEVEL ACTIVITIES

1 Sec 1 ACE Programme (for selected students)

This programme helps our students start right, learning and practising various life skills and social-emotional learning competencies.

Workshop Sessions	Outing to Harvest Care Centre	Showcase
Date: Wed (Jun 28, Jul 5, 19, Aug 16, 23) Time: 1.45 pm - 3.15 pm Venue: Classroom	Date: Wed (Jul 12) Time: 1.45 pm - 3.45 pm Venue: Harvest Care Centre	Date: Wed (Sep 13) Time: 1.45 pm - 4.15 pm Venue: Classroom

2 Sec 2 GEMS@Work

To provide Education and Career Guidance (ECG) learning experiences beyond the classroom, students are highly encouraged to observe their parents or relatives at their workplace during one HBL day (Jul 20, Aug 2 or 15). Please refer to the announcement on Parents Gateway for more details.

3 ECG Fair at WorldSkills ASEAN 2023

Interested Sec 2 Students can sign up to attend the ECG fair held in conjunction with the 13th WorldSkills ASEAN Competition which features top youth talents from the 10 ASEAN member countries competing in 22 skills areas.

Date: Jul 24 (Mon)

Time: 2.00 pm - 5.30 pm

Students will:

- explore interactive booths featuring different industries and important skill sets,
- attend an Artificial Intelligence (AI) or video-making workshop, and
- attend the WorldSkills ASEAN competition as a spectator.

Transport will be provided and sign-up details will be given closer to the date.

4 Sec 2 National Physical Fitness Award Test (NAPFA)

To enhance the skills and knowledge needed in health and fitness management, all Sec 2s will participate in the NAPFA test. The 2.4 km run will be conducted during PE lessons while the 5 stations will be conducted on Aug 3 (Thurs) from 2.45 pm.

5 Sec 2 ACE Programme (for selected students)

This programme develops in our students the ability to reflect and lead through healthy living, service learning and sustainable living.

Date: Wed (Jul 5, 19, Aug 16) from 2.30 pm - 5.30 pm

6 Sec 2 NT Experience ITE Programme @ ITE College Central

Students will report to school in full school uniform for the usual morning assembly. A 2-way transport will be provided.

Date: Aug 1 (Tues)

Programme: 7.15 am - 8.15 am - Follow normal timetable
8.15 am - 4.30 pm - Programme at ITE College Central
4.30 pm onwards - Dismissal from GMS(S)

7 5D-4N MOE-OBS Challenge Programme for Sec 3

As part of the National Outdoor Adventure Education Masterplan, the MOE-OBS Challenge Programme seeks to develop ruggedness, resilience, and builds cohesion amongst youths. It is an experiential programme to learn how to face challenges positively and make good decisions through self-directed learning.

	Group 1	Group 2
Date	4 Sep (Mon) to 8 Sep (Fri)	11 Sep (Mon) to 15 Sep (Fri)
Classes	J31, J35, J36 and J37	J32, J33 and J34

Do take note that Group 1 takes place during the September school holidays and students will continue with HBL in Term 3 Week 1 from 11 Sep (Mon) to 15 Sep (Fri).

8 Sec 3 GEMS Challenge

GEMS Challenge training sessions will continue to be on selected Thursday afternoons. Most Challenges had been completed while the rest will complete in Term 3. Specific training dates and other details will be shared with your child by his/her teachers.

9 Sec 4 & 5 Grad Venture

All graduating students will embark on the annual graduation walk on Jun 30 (Fri) as a cohort. This year's activities will include Dragon boating and a dinner to create shared memories with their peers and teachers. The activity will be from 1.30 pm and students will be dismissed from school by 7.30 pm.

(H) Student Leadership Development

Student Leadership Development continues to be a key focus of GM, helping our student leaders build relevant competencies to better serve the school community.

- Upper Sec Class Committee meeting - Jul 6 (Thurs)
- Student Council Training - Jul 13 (Thurs)
- CCA Leaders Training - Jul 13 (Thurs)
- Sec 3 GEMS Leaders Training - Jul 27 (Thurs) and Aug 17 (Thurs) to enhance skills in mentoring, facilitation and planning especially for the 2024 Sec 1 Orientation Camp.
- House Committee Training - Aug 24 (Thurs)

(I) VALUES-IN-ACTION (VIA)

Sec 1 will focus on "Environment and Sustainability", embarking on a sustainability project and reflecting on the current environmental challenges. This project, "Urban Heat Island", is a collaboration with the Science Dept, leveraging GM's Applied Learning Programme.

Sec 2 classes will work with different Senior Activity Centre (SAC) in the Geylang community and work on the theme "Singapore's Ageing Population". They will learn about the needs of the elderly and think more deeply about ways to improve the elderlies' well-being. Through this experience, we hope to nurture in our GEMS the value of empathy and gratitude.

The VIA schedule is as follow:

Sessions	Date	Time	Venue
1	6 July	2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	School
2	27 July	2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	School
3	17 August	2:30 pm to 4:30 pm	School
4	29 August (Sec 1s) 29 or 30 August (Sec 2s - class dependent)	2:30 pm to 5:00 pm	School (Sec 1s) Various SACs (Sec 2s)

(J) EDUCATION AND CAREER GUIDANCE (ECG)

The application period for the respective post-secondary institutions is as indicated:

Exercise	Application Period	For more information
Poly EAE	Jun 22 - Jun 28	https://eae.polytechnic.edu.sg/eaeStudIns/menu.jsp?type=Introduction
DSA-JC	To refer to JC's website	https://www.moe.gov.sg/post-secondary/admissions/dsa

Students who wish to consult the ECG Counsellor, Ms Suma, for any questions or to prepare for their interview can book an appointment with her through this link: <https://go.gov.sg/ecggms>. Ms Suma will be conducting mock interview sessions on July 6 and 13.

(K) CURRICULUM MATTERS

1. English Language

The graduating cohort will take their National Oral Examination on the following dates:

- NA/NT: Jul 11-17
- O-Level: Jul 25 - Aug 3

2. Mother Tongue Languages (MT)

a. O-Level Exam Matters

- MT B Oral Exam: Jul 6
- MT Oral Exam: Jul 7 - 17
- Higher Chinese Oral Exam: Jul 28 - Aug 3
- MT/MTB Listening Comprehension Exam: Jul 4

b. N-Level Exam Matters

- MT/ Basic MT Oral Exam: Jul 25 - Jul 27
- MT Listening Comprehension Exam: Sep 11
- Basic MT Listening Comprehension Exam: Sep 12

(L) ASSESSMENT MATTERS

1. School-based Academic Assessment for Sec 1-3

Common Test 3 for Sec 1 - 3 will be held from Aug 7 - 17. The topics and schedule for the Common Test will be given later. In accordance with MOE's guidelines, the assessment weightings are as follow for all streams

Common Test 1	Common Test 2	Common Test 3	End-of-Year Exam	Total
15%	15%	15%	55%	100%

2. Weightings for Modular Subjects at Lower Sec

Subject/ Level	Common Test	Semestral Assessment	Total
D&T/ Sec 1 & 2	20%	80%	100%
FCE/ Sec 1 & 2	20%	80%	100%

3 School-based Preliminary Examinations for Sec 4/5

Preliminary Examinations will be from Aug 2 – Aug 23. O-Level Preliminary Science practicals will be on Aug 2, 4, 15 and 18. The examination time-table will be given to students in Term 3 Week 1. Students should not be absent for any paper without a valid medical certificate.

4 GCE O-Level and N-Level National Examinations

GCE O-Level and N-level EL and MT Oral and Listening Comprehension examinations will be held in Term 3 and your child will be briefed by their teachers. Do encourage your child/ward to take responsibility for his/her learning and conduct during the examinations. They are expected to take note of the dates, report punctually and adhere to all instructions in the booklet 'Examination Rules and Regulations For School Candidates'.

(M) PARENTING TALKS

In Term 3, 2 parenting talks are scheduled .

- a. Talk 1: Media Literacy and Digital Intelligence conducted by Focus on the Family on Jul 8 (Sat) from 9 to 11 am

Synopsis:

New technology and social media has exposed our children to information and interactions never imagined possible. While exciting, it can also pose dangers unknown. Plug into the cyberworld to help your child develop digital savvy in media discernment, online safety, data privacy and digital etiquette.

By the end of the talk, parents will:

- understand the impact of various forms of media and how it affects children's perceptions, attitudes and behaviour
- know how to set boundaries for your unique child
- use practical skills to engage with their children and leverage on media and technology

- b. Talk 2: Talk About Anything: Media & Technology on Jul 15 (Sat), from 8.45 to 11.15am.

Synopsis:

Screens have become an inevitable and critical part of our lives – we depend on it for work and our children use it for learning at school and at home. How do we help our children minimise the use of screen time while maximising the positive impact of technology? Can parents and teens have a conflict-free conversation about media use and agree on digital boundaries? Get talking about how you can be a screen-smart family and use technology for meaningful connection!

By the end of the talk, parents will:

- engage in meaningful conversations about screen time
- effectively communicate with each other about our digital usages and expectations
- create a Family Digital Agreement together

Both talks are designed for parents to attend together with their child and conducted in the school premises.

Capacity: 30 parents for 8 Jul and 20 parent-child pairs for 15 Jul.

More information will be shared with you through the Parents Gateway.

END			