



OPERA ESTATE PRIMARY SCHOOL

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Ref No: OEPS/035/2023

3 February 2023

Updates: 2/2023

Dear Parents/Guardians,

1. Commemoration of Total Defence Day

We commemorate Total Defence Day (TDD) on 15 February annually to mark Singapore's fall to the Japanese in 1942. This day serves as a reminder that Singapore is defensible and is worth defending and we ourselves must defend Singapore. This year's TDD theme is "Together We Keep Singapore Strong" which focuses on the ways we can put Total Defence into action in our everyday lives. Every Singaporean has a part to play in our daily lives to ensure that Singapore is prepared for crises and disruptions and that we remain resilient and united as one people.

During the week of 13 to 17 February, the school will commemorate TDD through experiences such as the CCE-Form Teacher's Guidance Period lessons, recess activities and a skit titled "Together We Defend". There will also be a TDD 2023 video message featuring heart-warming stories of how Singaporeans have stepped up to help other Singaporeans in times of need and crisis.

To prepare students and staff on what to do in the event of an emergency, we will conduct an emergency fire drill on 16 February 2023 between 7.40 a.m. to 8.30 a.m. within our school premises. The school gates would be locked during this exercise. Should there be inclement weather on that day, the exercise will be held on the next school day during the same time.

2. Nomination for Teacher Awards

Inspiring Teacher of English Award

The Inspiring Teacher of English Award is a national award for English teachers in Singapore schools that acknowledges teachers who ignite a love for the English language and are effective in helping their students speak and write accurately. If your child's English teacher exemplifies the use of good spoken and written English, enacts learner-centred approaches during English lessons and chooses pedagogies appropriate to learners' needs, abilities and interests, please nominate him/her for this award. You may download the nomination form at www.goodenglish.org.sg. Nominations open on 1 February 2023 and you can submit the forms to the General Office by **27 March, Monday**.

Most Inspiring Tamil Teacher Award

The Most Inspiring Tamil Teacher Award recognises Tamil teachers in Singapore schools who have made significant contributions to the teaching and learning of Tamil. If your child's Tamil Teacher nurtures student's interest in Tamil by using innovative methods to make lessons more interesting and engaging; and demonstrates a keen interest in students' well-being and inspire students to be self-directed and engaged learners, please nominate him/her for this

award. Nominations open on 30 January 2023 and can also be made online at <https://go.gov.sg/mitt-2023-form-tl> and <https://go.gov.sg/mitt-2023-form-ell> by **10 April, Monday**.

Arif Budiman Malay Language Teacher Award

The Arif Budiman Malay Language Teacher Award (AGAB) is an annual award which recognises outstanding Malay Language teachers who have made significant contributions to the teaching and learning of Malay language in our schools.

The AGAB 2023 Organising Committee invites you to nominate outstanding Malay Language teachers from your school who are eligible and deserving of the award. We would be grateful if you could also help to encourage your staff, students and parents to submit their nominations. Nomination is open from 3 February 2023 to 31 March 2023.

Nominations can be done via the following URL <https://go.gov.sg/agab2023> or by scanning the QR code below. Kindly note that submissions for nominations will close on **31 March, Friday**.

3. Parents Engagement 2023

We would like to thank parents who had made time to attend our face-to-face and online Parents Engagement. The school has uploaded the Principal's address and curriculum slides on the school website. You may access the slides via the link <https://operaestatepri.moe.edu.sg/curriculum-briefing/>.

We hope the sessions have enabled stronger partnership between parents and the school for the holistic development of our students.

4. Traffic Matters and Road Safety

We would like to seek your cooperation in ensuring the safety of our students coming to and leaving the school. Please take note of the following road safety measures:

- (i) If you pick/drop off your child by car, please note the following:
 - Reduce vehicular speed and stay alert for pedestrians in the school zone.
 - Cooperate with school's traffic marshals to ensure overall safety and smooth traffic flow.
 - Do not sound the horn indiscriminately.
 - For parents who are driving, do not make illegal U-turns along the road outside the school after alighting your child/ward. This is against the traffic rules and will pose danger for all road users.
 - Please turn off your vehicle engine when you are waiting for your child/ward during dismissal. This is in line with the NEA advisory on "Idling engines". Motorists caught leaving their engine idling can be fined up to \$2000 for the first offence and \$5000 for subsequent offences. Your cooperation in this measure will achieve better air quality to safeguard public health.
- (ii) Reinforce the following to your child when using the pedestrian crossings:
 - Make use of the available pedestrian crossing facilities like zebra crossings or signalised traffic junctions. Do not jaywalk. As the roads are congested during

arrival and dismissal times, it can be dangerous if he/she crosses the road without using the pedestrian crossing facilities.

- Be attentive and not be distracted. Do not dash or run across the roads.
- Practise the kerb drill before crossing – “look right, look left, look right again, ensure all vehicles have stopped, raise your hand high up and cross the road briskly”.

(iii) If your child/ward cycles or rides a scooter to school, please ensure he/she wears protective gear such as a well-fitted helmet, elbow pads and knee pads. The following are some of the safety guidelines you can remind your child/ward:

- Ensure safety for self and other pedestrians
- Do not use mobile phones or other mobile devices
- Dismount his/her bicycle or scooter when crossing the road. Check that all vehicles have stopped before crossing the junctions with traffic lights.
- Always look to see if there are vehicles coming from the left and right directions

(iv) If your child/ward takes the public bus home, kindly remind him/her to stand behind the yellow line at the bus stop and to wait patiently for the bus. He/she should not rush when boarding the bus. Remind your child/ward to watch out for his/her own safety and maintain discipline throughout the journey.

For students taking the school bus home, please remind them to remain seated and fasten their seatbelts throughout the journey to and from school.

We seek your support on the above road safety measures. These will alleviate the traffic situation and ensure safer road conditions for all our students and road users. Your co-operation is greatly appreciated.

5. Group Personal Accident (“GPA”) Insurance with NTUC Income

We have included the updated 2023 product factsheet for the Income Group Personal Accident (GPA) Insurance Plan for Students in this PG announcement.

Information on claims, FAQs and other details pertaining to the GPA Insurance Plan for Students can be found on Income’s website at <https://www.income.com.sg/studentgpa>.

6. School Facebook page

We have launched our official Facebook page last year to share school activities and events. Please search for **Opera Estate Primary School** on Facebook (under the “Pages” tab). Alternatively, you can access the page through the link <https://www.facebook.com/oepsofficial/>

Follow us as we share our uniquely Opera experiences!

7. Join the Opera Parents Club (OPC)

The Opera Parents Club (OPC) is looking for volunteers to be part of the Opera Family! Being a Parent Volunteer (PV) allows you to be a part of your child's educational journey.

As a PV, you will be able to select and participate in the activities that suit you and your availability. You may choose to volunteer on an ad-hoc basis or join a rostered programme on a regular basis. We would love to hear from you, especially if you have a skill or talent that you can contribute to the OPC family! So come and be a part of our OPC family in supporting the students, educators, and parents of OEPS. Scan the QR code to sign up today!



OPC
Registration

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "TWL" with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mrs Tan Wai Ling
Principal