

January Issue

Dear Parents/Guardians

Welcome back to school.

This year, 2019, marks 200 years of history for Singapore as we commemorate the nation's bicentennial milestone of Sir Stamford Raffles' arrival in Singapore in 1819. It is a time for Singaporeans to reflect on how we have evolved from a place with a geographically strategic location, to a people with a unique deoxyribonucleic acid (DNA). We will look back on Singapore's formative years, some 500 years before 1819, travelling back to the 14th century. There will be many exciting events and programmes planned to commemorate this milestone.

Xingnan Primary School has an equally long history and a rich heritage, since it was established in 1932. We are proud of our achievements over the years and we appreciate the hard work and efforts of all those who have contributed to these successes.

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Upcoming Events

January 11

P5 – P6 Parents' Briefing

January 14 to January 16

P5 School Camp

January 17 to January 25

P1 – P6 Annual School
Health Screening

January 18

P2 Parents Breakfast
Meeting @ XNPS

P3 – P4 Parents' Briefing

January 30

P1 –P6 Home-Based
Learning (HBL) Day

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At Xingnan, we believe that all children are curious, active and competent learners. They can learn almost anything with the right support and environment. Our focus as educators is to curate quality learning experiences for our children. Even as we strive for academic excellence, we want our Xingnanians to have fun and enjoy their learning. We want to provide them with opportunities for holistic development and nurture the whole child for lifelong learning. These include Programme for Active Learning (PAL), Modular CCA (MoCCA) activities, Learning Journeys (LJs) and overseas exchange programmes.

We aim to provide a vibrant environment that nurtures minds and builds character. Our vision is for every Xingnanian to be 'A Self-Directed Learner, A Gracious Citizen'. We want every pupil to be well-anchored in our core values of creativity, loyalty, empathy, respect and responsibility. Throughout their 6 years in Xingnan, our pupils will experience our unique school-based X³ Learning Years Programme (eXcite, eXplore and eXtend) to prepare them to be future ready.

We are grateful for the strong support, commitment and dedication given by our stakeholders and partners, especially our School Advisory Committee (SAC), Alumni Association, Parent Support Group (PSG), parents and families. We will continue to forge meaningful partnerships to bring out the best in every child as we believe that every child is of worth and can learn!

Mr Charles Chan
Principal

We're Going Back To School



Quality Learning Experiences

Be Nurtured and Enjoy Learning

From 2019, there will be no weighted assessments at Primary 1 and 2 and Mid-year examinations will be removed at Primary 3 and 5. Subject-specific learning outcomes and qualitative descriptors will be used to report Primary 1 and 2 pupils' learning progress for all subjects at the end of Semester 1 and 2.



These adjustments to School-Based Assessment were made with the aim of nurturing the intrinsic motivation in our pupils to learn and reducing an over-inflation of effort. This ensures the well-being of our pupils and a holistic approach to their development.



Writing New Life Chapters in Secondary Schools

Well-wishes were shared in the hall as our 235 candidates received their PSLE results in 2018. Our Primary Six pupils did our school proud by achieving 98% overall passes. 100% of the candidates taking standard subjects were eligible for secondary school with 56% of them qualifying for the Express Course. 82% of our pupils made wise choices and made it into their 1st and 2nd choice schools.

15 pupils taking standard subjects had scores of 250 and above, while 5 pupils taking foundation subjects topped the foundation cohort. 21 candidates were successful in their secondary school posting via Direct School Admission.

We congratulate our pupils and their parents for the achievements! We thank our teachers for their dedication and hard work in bringing out the best in our pupils.



Embracing our Uniqueness, Celebrating as One

As the theme 'Embracing our Uniqueness, Celebrating as One' for Recognition Day defined, we celebrated our pupils' academic achievements, and recognised their successes in Co-Curricular Activities and character development. Together with our pupils, our staff was applauded for their valuable contributions to the school.

The enthusiasm and vibrancy of our school culture is evident in the faces of our pupils in action. The Trio musicians, Rakesh Kumar Sarker from Primary 6A, Tupas Courosh Rumil Xin Gonzales from Primary 6C and Hadi Shakiel Bin Saharudin from Primary 6F, performed a rhapsody with main melody played on the 1st piano, melodic accompaniment on the 2nd piano and rhythmic accompaniment on the cajon. The guests were undoubtedly captivated by their kaleidoscopic musical expressions! Our Primary 4 prefects sang a wonderful song entitled "A Million Dreams". This song tells us about a person who has dreams for the future and explains that if one has confidence and works hard for it, his dreams will definitely come true with great determination and perseverance.

The celebration ended with the guests being entertained with a few musical pieces played by our school band in the school canteen while having their refreshments. These hard working and articulate young people are a credit to our school and an inspiration to us all. We could not have accomplished so much without the dedication of our teaching and administrative and support staff, and parents who have gone the extra mile to nurture our pupils and bring out the best in them.

We hope our pupils have learnt the value of commitment, discipline and hard work. When our pupils persevere in the face of disappointments and difficulties, they learn to be more resilient by self-exploring the possibilities. When they use these knowledge, skills and talents to serve one another, the school and community, they learn to be more gracious, like our school vision, 'A Self-directed Learner, A Gracious Citizen'.

A Day to Remember

Often included as one's most important moments, Graduation Day marked the culmination of tireless work, late nights, disappointments, achievements and individual growth of our Primary 6 pupils.

In preparation for the celebration, our pupils practised diligently to perfect their performances which showcased many hidden talents. The audience was thoroughly thrilled by programmes that comprised dancing, piano recital with percussion accompaniment and making of awesome beats and rhythm with ordinary objects.

Dani Syahmi Bin Hirman, our Vice Head Prefect, delivered a speech to thank his father for his words of wisdom and for being a pillar of strength which saw him through the six years of his primary education. The rest of our Primary 6 cohort followed suit by passing handwritten notes or giving warm embraces to their parents and guardians, giving rise to a number of teary eyes.

Every end has a new beginning. We wish our graduating pupils all the best as they begin a new chapter in their secondary school life!

Young Entrepreneurs in Action!

Entrepreneur Day 2018 – a Values-in-Action (VIA) programme for our Primary 6 pupils. The annual post-PSLE activity was executed a little differently this year. Pupils formed their own groups with members from different classes! As part of our Learning Years Programme: **eXtend, Xingnan – Transforming Experiences** through **iNnovation and Discovery** our Primary 6 pupils engaged Xingnans in games to raise funds. These funds were used to support programmes conducted for residents in St. Joseph and NTUC Nursing homes. Our Primary 6 pupils exhibited their creativity through the innovative games. Entrepreneur Day served as a collaborative platform for our graduating pupils. We thank all Xingnans for their support in making the event a success!



Primary 6 Level

Celebrating the Festival of Lights

Xingnanians were engaged in a variety of cultural activities to celebrate Deepavali. They watched Bhangra dance and learnt a simple 4-step dance during the concert. Booths were set up during recess to provide our pupils and staff hands-on experience of making *murukku*, drawing *Kolam* using the coloured rice, stringing garlands and learning various Indian dance forms. Our dedicated parent volunteers guided our pupils patiently by explaining the techniques involved. It was indeed an enriching experience for all!



Mother Tongue Department



Bouncing for Fitness in Happiness

Happiness is jumping on a trampoline! Primary 5 and 6 pupils discovered the joy of exercising on mini-trampolines in Sports

Education Programme (SEP).

Pupils went through safety briefing, routines and techniques of bouncing on a trampoline. The lively music hyped up the atmosphere with pupils and staff bouncing to the beat of the music actively. Many were reluctant to end!

PE / CCA & Aesthetics Department

First Encounter with Scientific Calculators

Do you recall the day when you first used a scientific calculator? Primary 4 pupils were excited to use their new calculators during Mathematics lessons in 2019. They learnt the functions in their calculators through stimulating activities which engaged their creativity and problem solving skills. Pupils were reminded to take good care of the calculators.

Mathematics Department



Embracing 2019 Primary One pupils to our Xingnan Family!

We welcomed our 2019 cohort of Primary One pupils into our school on 15 November 2018. Following the address by our Principal, Mr Chan, parents were briefed on our school programmes by the Year Head (Lower Primary). The pupils were engaged in fun activities in the classrooms and they got to know each other and their Form Teachers. After some ice-breaking activities, the pupils toured around their new school to familiarise themselves with the new environment. At the end of the orientation programme, the little ones walked out of the school excitedly and were eager to share their memorable experiences with their parents.



Hello, My New Class and Friends in 2019!

Our pupils have had a fulfilling 2018 and their memories are captured in the school's yearbook. Every pupil received a copy of the yearbook. At the start of Promotion Day, the form teachers went through the yearbook with their pupils, reminiscing their time spent together in Xingnan.

As the saying goes, "The end of a chapter marks the start of a new beginning." After the yearbook activities, pupils went to their 2019 classrooms to meet their new classmates and teachers. They played some class bonding activities and got to know their new classmates better.



Paradise Aloft

A group of International Dance members went on a learning journey to watch “Paradise Aloft”. This theatre work tells the riveting story of a sinking island due to sea level rising.

During the performance, pupils were mesmerised by the whimsical wildlife characters in fantastical costumes and enjoyed the captivating performance of young children dancing alongside professional dancers. They learnt about climate change and its environmental threats through an engaging and immersive theatre experience and how movements and facial expressions would bring out the essence of any dance.

Moulding the Champs

What an engaging and fun time the pupils from the Performing Arts CCA groups had during Champs’ Camp (Performing Arts Camp). On Day 1, they were greeted with a special dance item by International Dance. They were spilt into different groups where they mixed with friends from Brass Band, Diabolo and Dance Troupes – Chinese, Indian, International and Malay Dance – to complete various challenges in “The Amazing Race”.

On Day 2, the pupils played ice breaking games and had fun dancing the Polonaise folk dance. They had a leadership workshop where they learnt how to be a leader through a resume mission game. They went on a learning journey where the dance groups learnt more about their respective dance from professional dancers, and the other CCA groups learnt about the infrastructure of Esplanade and what happened at the backstage when there was a performance.



Advancing to Year 2019

Our key personnel and staff went on our year-end professional development. The key personnel, consisting 38 members of the staff, went on a one-day leaders' retreat at Marina Barrage. The key focus was for the team to explore and learn how to strive for greater meaningful connections in our school programmes and events. It was not all work and no play. Participants had an enjoyable picnic breakfast at Green Roof of Marina Barrage.

Participants continued with the day's activities, making kites in groups to explore and learn about the benefits of making meaningful connections in the things the school put out to provide a holistic education.

To grow yourself, start from knowing yourself. All staff came together, working and learning on a common theme, developing oneself into better practitioner in education, to create a more meaningful learning experience for our pupils.

The theme "Knowing You, Knowing Me" engaged staff in numerous discussions on contemporary issues that might influence anyone. Staff shared on what they felt was their comfort level and how they could be better equipped to lead pupils in discussing contemporary issues that might be brought up.

Let's Go Out and Learn!

Chartered buses streamed into our school to ferry our Primary 1 to 5 pupils to different parts of Singapore for an educational trip on G.O.A.L. (Go Out And Learn) Day. Aligned with our Learning Years Programme, the trips were designed for our pupils to be future ready. Everyone returned school feeling tired but enriched!

Read on for the highlights from the various levels!



Urban Farming

“What do you mean that this flower can be eaten?” gasped some pupils with their widened eyes as the guide put in a blue pea pod flower into his mouth. “Yes, these flowers are used to make colouring for cakes!” smiled Uncle Tony, the guide.

Primary 1 pupils went to Bollywood Veggies for a farm tour and learnt interesting facts about plants and their uses. They touched, smelt and tasted some of the vegetables, fruits, herbs and spices, and medicinal plants.

It was a great experience and fuss-free educational session for our little Xingnians who went through simple steps on how to pot *kangkong* and care for it. Happily, they took the pots home after enjoying their milo drinks and banana cakes!

In school, they made lovely scarecrows to welcome 2019 Primary 1 pupils.

Primary 1 Level

Sustain and Soar

“Rain, rain, go away, come to Marina Barrage another day,” our Primary 2 pupils sang, looking at the thick grey clouds and light drizzle. Everyone hoped to fly their uniquely designed kites.

The rain did not dampen our enthusiasm. We learnt about sustainability and to appreciate the clean and green environment during our customised gallery walk at Sustainable Singapore Gallery. Our friendly and knowledgeable docents explained how the dam was built to prevent flood with a simulator, how rainwater was being converted to potable water and how food waste could be converted to fertiliser.

We had a great time bonding with our 2-year long classmates through class picnics. Weather was finally kind to stop raindrops from pounding. Some of us experimented flying our kites. With our aspirations written on the kites, we watched them soar their way into the boundless azure sky.

Primary 2 Level

eXploring at Jurong Bird Park!

“We had a whale of a time at Jurong Bird Park!” commented a Primary 3 pupil. “My classmates and I learnt that ostriches are dinosaur descendants,” a group of Primary 3 pupils reflected.

Our Primary 3 pupils explored on interesting bird facts. We learnt about flightless birds like penguins and ostriches. The highlight was the show, “Birds of Prey”, where we watched majestic birds swoop down to catch their prey live. We researched on the bird of our choice through sketching its features and identifying its adaptation and habitat.



Primary 3 Level

Cruising on River Safari

There was an aura of excitement hanging in the air as the Primary 4 pupils waited for their transportation to River Safari.

At River Safari, all the pupils were amazed by the variety of species of different animal groups that exist around different parts of the world. They walked silently at the Giant Panda Forest so as not to disturb our beloved pandas, Jia Jia and Kai Kai, and the other red pandas living there; only whispering to their friends when they could no longer control their excitement.

The next stop after the break was Squirrel Monkey Forest, where monkeys were free to roam about. A few pupils looked nervous at the sign to warn visitors that the monkeys do bite. We went into the enclosure after reminding them to stay away from the monkeys.

Phew! A couple of pupils heaved a sigh of relief the moment they came out of the enclosure and faced a huge Anaconda behind the glass. Many of them were sceptical that it was real as the Anaconda stayed very still.



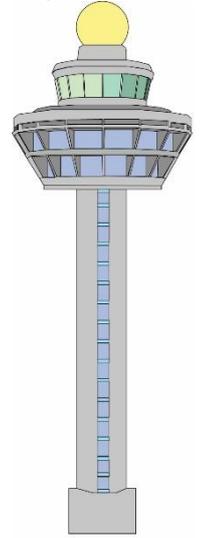
Finally, at the last stop at the Amazon Flooded Forest, we learnt more about the electric eels and watched manatees crawling around the waters with their flippers. It was mesmerizing to see such big creatures moving so gracefully.

Primary 4 Level



GST Refund @ Singapore Changi Airport

Have you ever wondered what GST (Goods and Services Tax) Refund mean and who it is for? The Primary 5 pupils explored GST Refund at Singapore Changi Airport. It was an eye opener for many pupils to immerse themselves in the ambience, explore the amenities and observe the security features in place to make Changi Airport safe and connected to the rest of the world.



"To charge at no charge." Free to use charging stations are available at Airport Terminals for visitors to charge their mobile devices. Baggage storage made available at nominal fees for tourists in transit so that they can tour around the island at ease while waiting for their next flight. These are some examples of what Primary 5 pupils learnt during the visit. They learnt how to read exchange rates and calculate the amount of money in foreign currencies, read the times for flight arrival and departure in 24-hours clock.

Primary 5 Level

Providing a variety of healthy food

We encourage our pupils to stay healthy and watch what they eat. We monitor and provide a variety of quality food for our pupils to enjoy. We have included a Japanese food stall this year. The canteen vendors work closely with us to ensure that the food has less oil, salt and sugar with the right amount of servings. We teach our pupils to eat fruits and vegetables in addition to their meat and carbo intake. We hope parents will encourage their children to have a balanced diet, leading them to a healthy lifestyle.

Types of Food	Number of Stalls	Prices
Chinese	2	Small set meal: S\$1.50 Medium set meal: S\$1.80 Large set meal: S\$2.00
Drinks	1	
Japanese*	1	
Malay	2	
Snacks	1	
Western	1	

* new stall

Never too Young, Never too Old

He is good in Mathematics and can calculate faster than me!" quipped Nivian Chiang from Primary 5E as she played a Mathematics Game on iPad with a resident at St Joseph's Home. On a regular basis, our Primary 5 pupils went to St Joseph Home to engage the seniors through reading and iPad activities. This time it was a year-end party for the seniors. They sang and played traditional games. They put up an ukulele and a magic performance. A senior gave our magician, Koh Jun Rui, Damian from Primary 5C, a thumbs-up, exclaiming, "You're talented!"

At NTUC Nursing Home (Jurong West), our Primary 4 pupils engaged the residents with their carefully planned activities. The activities were planned thematically according to the festivals or event of the month. The smiles on the residents revealed their appreciation to our pupils.

Many pupils were eager to return for another visit. Intergenerational bonding goes a long way. Our pupils have proven to be never too young to contribute back to society.

Character and Citizenship Education Department

"Shopping" for Secondary School

10 secondary schools from West Zone participated in Secondary School Exhibition in our school. Eye-catching and captivating booths were set up to create an engagement platform for our pupils to interact with students and/or ex-Xingnians. The schools showcased their various programmes through interesting videos and photos. This meaningful partnership has empowered our Primary 6 pupils to make informed choices of secondary schools during the posting exercise.



Primary 6 Level

Learning with Our Neighbour, Malaysia

“Oh my god! So this is how Ondeh were made!” “Look at my batik painting! Colourful, aren't they?” “It's so difficult to spin the *Gasing!* Never mind! Try again!” Conversations went on throughout the trip, with each part of the itinerary having something new for some of the pupils.

71 Primary 4 and 5 pupils, accompanied by 13 school staff, went on a cultural and immersion programme to Malacca from 15 November 2018 to 17 November 2018. Malacca may be a place commonly visited by Singaporeans. To quite a number of pupils in the group, it was their first visit.

The warm reception as well as the traditional games prepared by SJKT Merlimau, Primary School in Malacca made the school immersion more interesting. Our pupils wasted no time in breaking ice with their pupils and soon, they were playing games together. One of our pupils reflected her appreciation when the school gave us a warm welcome. The team discussed during our debrief about how we could have this school pride when hosting visitors to our school or visiting other schools in future.

Partnerships and Engagement Team

Friendly Matches in Malaysia

The whistle blew, marking the end of our friendly basketball match in West Malaysia, Johor.

To promote holistic education and sports excellence for our student athletes, our department organised a 4 Days 3 Nights Cultural & Sports Exchange to West Malaysia, Johor for 50 pupils from Basketball and Volleyball CCA during school holidays in November 2018. Our student athletes developed values such as teamwork, resilience and discipline during the friendly games. They appreciated and understood interesting cultures and traditions of our neighbouring country through learning journeys to local farms, kampongs and museums. Friendships were forged and strengthened among our student athletes.

PE/ CCA & Aesthetics Department



38th Shell Traffic Games Competition 2018 – Finals!

“**W**e made it to the Finals!” A team of 20 Primary 4 pupils cheered at the 38th Shell Traffic Games – Road Safety Education competition finals. In this round, pupils took the written quiz at the start of the games. There were exhibitions and entertainment for the pupils on the road safety messages. When the results were announced, we were happy to receive a consolation prize of \$250 cash and goody bags for the team.

Safety Committee



Sharing Is Caring!

“**J**uying Primary School pupils assembled at our school grounds as part of their emergency exercise where they had to assemble at an external holding area. Xingnan was glad to play host to our neighbouring school and to assist them during an emergency. We certainly are proud of ourselves to be able to help our neighbours in times of need.

Safety Committee