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Dear Parents/Guardian,

We have come to the end of another academic year. As you receive your child's report book today, do find time to converse with him/her about his/her learning experiences for the year. From this year, you need not hurry to sign and send the report book back to school the next day. You may keep it during the holidays and return it to the Form Teacher when the new school year starts in 2018.

You may use the holistic achievements reflected in the report book as a conversation starter to help your child reflect on the effort he/she had put in for the year. If your child has done well, you may encourage him/her to think of success factors (which includes hard work, good study habits, good home support, etc.) and praise him/her for the effort put in. For those who have not met targets, let us also encourage them to search deeper and make plans to make stepwise improvements as they progress to another academic year. This is also a good opportunity for you to find out what kind of support your child requires from you.

### **Theme for 2017: Passion, Purpose and Pride**

The theme of 'Passion, Purpose and Pride' for 2017 serves to encourage our students to uncover their passions, experience small successes that will lead them to develop greater pride in their learning and gradually discover their purpose in life.

This series of 8 assembly talks not only urges our students to pursue their interests and strengths by building upon their talents and gifts, it also reminds them to develop positive learning habits and attitudes that are important to navigate challenges they might encounter along the way. It is also my desire that as our students search deeper into themselves to find out more about their passion and purpose, they will also keep an outward perspective and consider how they can lead and serve others through the fulfilment of their dreams and aspirations.

### **MFPS as a Designated Mainstream Primary School for Hearing Loss (Signing) Students**

You would have learnt by now that from 2018, Mayflower Primary School (MFPS) will offer specialised educational supports as a designated mainstream primary school for students with hearing loss who sign. These supports are targeted for students with bilateral moderate to profound hearing loss who would benefit from instruction in sign language to access the national curriculum. We will begin enrolling up to 7 students in the first P1 cohort in 2018. HL (Signing) students will be placed in designated mainstream classes with their hearing peers. In each of these classes, a co-teaching approach is adopted where a specialised teacher proficient in signing and trained in HL (Signing) pedagogies will teach alongside the mainstream teacher.

As HL (Signing) and hearing children attend classes and play together, they learn to appreciate diversity and respect one another. The hearing students will also have direct experiences and encounters of the needs of and challenges faced by their HL (Signing) peers. This is a powerful education process in which students develop empathy for others, a core value and skill children need to pick up in order to grow into caring individuals of the society.

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When I first shared the news with our students and asked the P4 cohort to volunteer themselves as buddies to these HL (Signing) students, 30 of them stepped forward to express their willingness to serve their incoming HL juniors. I am very heartened to learn that our MFPS students have big hearts that desire to do their part for others, living up to our school motto of "Service Before Self".

Besides conducting assembly talks in 2018 to help our hearing students better understand the needs of their HL (Signing) juniors, the school will also be mounting the Singapore Sign Language (SgSL) course for students, teachers and parent volunteers who may be interested to take it up as elective classes after school. More details on these initiatives will be provided in due course.

### **Cyber Wellness**

The school holidays are just around the corner. Your child may be spending time online during this break. We would like to share some good practices to keep your child safe online. Please refer to ICT Connection at <https://ictconnection.moe.edu.sg/cyber-wellness/for-parents> for tips on being safe and responsible online users.

### **Happy Holidays**

I want to thank you once again for your partnership with and support shown to the school this year. The education of our students is a collaborative effort based on mutual understanding and trust which the school has been blessed to receive from you.

Happy Holidays!

Yours sincerely,

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Mrs Lim-Chua Siow Ling  
Principal

