

MSHS/2018/1

2 Jan 2018

Dear Parents/ Guardians,

Greetings from Maris Stella High School and Happy 2018! We welcome our Sec 1s to the Marist Family. The theme for 2018 is Rejoice • Reunion • Rejuvenate. This is also the theme for our 60th anniversary celebrations of our school's founding. As a school, we have come a long way and we would like all Marists to mark our 60th Anniversary by giving of their best in whatever they do so that we can celebrate our past successes and also, scale new heights as a school.

1. 60th Anniversary Celebrations Updates

Together with the School Management Committee and Alumni, the school will be organising events to commemorate this important milestone. Our 60th Anniversary Celebrations will be a good opportunity for all Marists to pay homage to those who have contributed to our school. We also want to promote bonding among all Marists, past and present. Here is some information regarding the celebrations and more details of the events will be given in due course.

Events	Date	Venue	Remarks
Homecoming Fiesta	Saturday 10 March	Maris Stella High School	Public event Tickets will be sold nearer the date
Stellar Marists!	Saturday 30 June	The Singapore Botanic Gardens	Public Performance Free entry
Thanksgiving Mass	Thursday 26 July	Maris Stella High School	Combined school mass
Founder's Day	Friday 27 July	Shaw Hall, Maris Stella High School	Invited Guests and selected P6 and Sec 4 Marists
Homecoming Dinner	Saturday 28 July	Maris Stella High School	Public event Tickets will be sold nearer the date

2. Timetable Updates

a) Reporting Time, Recess and Lunch Breaks

We have reviewed the time table structure for all levels. An adjustment to the students' lunch and recess breaks have been made to ensure students have sufficient breaks in the day at an appropriate juncture. You may refer to the timetable for details.

	Mon - Wed, Fri	Thu
Start of movement to Shaw Hall (Theme song to be played)	0730h	0820h
Flag raising Assembly	0735h	0825h
Lower Sec Recess	1030h (Mon, Tue) 0945h (Wed, Fri)	1500h
Lower Sec Lunch	1415h (Mon, Tue) 1330h (Wed, Fri)	1115h
Upper Sec Recess	0945h (Mon, Tue) 1030h (Wed, Fri)	1030h
Upper Sec Lunch	1330h (Mon, Tue) 1415h (Wed, Fri)	1415h

Thursday is a late start day. This allows Marists to have more rest after the CCA training on Wednesday. Parents may want to use this time to have breakfast with your sons and students may also use this time to organise their own student-initiated programmes.

b) Lunch Time

During lunch time, students are not allowed to leave school for lunch and come back thereafter for CCA or school programmes.

c) Dismissal Time

The school dismissal time is based on the last period in the timetable. If the last period is lunch and there are no school activities, Marists are dismissed at the start of the lunch hour.

Please note that on Wed and Fri which are CCA days, if the lower secondary students do not have CCA or other school activities, the dismissal time is as follows:

- Wed (S1): 1330hrs
- Wed (S2): 1445hrs (after project work lesson)
- Fri (S1 and S2): 1330hrs

3. Level Specific Briefing for Parents

As parents play a very important role in educating students and partnering us, we will be conducting level briefing sessions for all parents so that parents have knowledge of the academic and co-curricular programmes that your sons would undergo in the coming year. Kindly confirm your attendance by Thursday, 4th January 2018, via the online registration form <http://bit.ly/MSHSBriefing18>

The details are as follows:

Level	Dates / Time	Areas of Focus
Secondary 1	5 Jan (Fri) 6.00 PM - 7:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Lower Secondary Curriculum & Assessment Matters • New Subjects in Secondary 1 (History / Geography / Literature / Art / Design & Technology / Food & Consumer Education) • CCA & Leaps 2.0
Secondary 2	12 Jan (Fri) 5.30 PM - 7.00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Secondary 3 Subject Combination • Education & Career Guidance programme • CCA & Leaps 2.0 <p><i>Please note that Secondary 2 students must attend the briefing too, regardless of whether their parents are attending.</i></p>
Secondary 3	6 Jan (Sat) 08.30 AM - 11.00 AM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Upper Secondary Curriculum • Promotion to Secondary 4 • CCA & Leaps 2.0 • MOE Outward Bound Singapore Course
Secondary 4	19 Jan (Fri) 5:00 PM - 7:00 PM	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Post GCE 'O' Level Examination Education Pathways • Expectations for 2018 Sec 4 Cohort • 'O' Level Curriculum academic support

4. Student Development Programme

a) Secondary One Orientation Programme

The Secondary One Orientation Programme will be held in school from 2 Jan (Tue), to 5 Jan (Fri). The theme of the programme is “Transformation” and we look forward to welcoming our new Marists into the Marist Family. Our student leaders are taking the lead in planning of the orientation programme and are looking forward to ease our Secondary One Marists’ transition from primary school life to secondary school life. These select student leaders will continue to journey with the Secondary One Marists as their peer support leaders.

b) Secondary 1 Catholic Students’ Camp

Faith formation is an integral part of being in a Catholic Marist school and it begins with the Secondary 1 Catholic Camp, jointly organised by the school’s Student Development Committee and the Marist Chaplaincy Team. In 2018, our school celebrates the 60th Anniversary of our founding. It is with grateful hearts that we rejoice as one big Marist Family in the celebrations. In the camp, based on the teachings of our founder, St. Marcellin Champagnat, we will explore what it means as Marists who are joyful in hope, who persevere in hardship and who keep the faith through praying regularly. The camp will also give us an opportunity to reach out to the residents of St. Theresa’s Home during our community outreach activity.

b) Secondary 2 Adventure Camp

The level focus for our Secondary 2 Marists is about gaining momentum. We hope to see our young Marists foster deep and meaningful relationships with their teachers and peers as they build their resilience to mature and become Marist gentlemen. The Secondary 2 Adventure Camp which will be held at the Changi Coast Adventure Centre from 19 Mar (Mon) to 21 Mar (Wed), aims to provide opportunities for teachers and students to bond over an experiential settings, and are designed to build resilience, camaraderie and teamwork in our young Marists.

c) Sec 3 Outward Bound Singapore (OBS) Programme

The Secondary 3 students will go through the MOE Outward Bound Singapore Programme. The programme seeks to develop ruggedness, resilience, and build cohesion amongst our youths. The programme comprises a series of school-based PE and CCE lessons facilitated by teachers as well as a 5-day expeditionary course at Outward Bound Singapore (OBS). The 5-day course will be conducted in two batches to accommodate the cohort size. The first batch will attend the camp from 19 March to 23 March, while the second batch will do so from 2 April to 6 April at OBS in Pulau Ubin and/or mainland Singapore. Further details will be disseminated to parents via a formal letter during the Secondary 3 Parents’ Briefing on 6 January 2018.

d) Sec 4 Youth Motivation Workshop

Our Secondary 4 students will attend the 2-day Youth Motivation workshop which is conducted by the Redemptorist Mission Team (RMT) from Church of St. Alphonsus (Novena Church). There will be 3 groups attending the workshop on different dates in early April. The objectives of this workshop are to emphasise the importance of affirming our youths for being who they are and guiding each student to have a deeper reflection on his life, to come to terms with his unique, individual situations,

in relation to others around him who are working towards the same goal. Through this programme, we hope to help Marists to find their goals and start them on the path towards reaching their goals.

5. CCA Matters

Secondary One Marists will go through the CCA Roadshow on 5 Jan, 3.15 p.m. to 4.45 p.m. During the CCA Roadshow, Marists will find out more about the various CCAs. They will have to make their CCA selection by 12 January. The result of the allocation will be released by 17 January. All parents of Secondary 1 students are welcomed to join your sons for the CCA Roadshow.

CCA is compulsory at the secondary level. Students can achieve the various levels of attainment in the four domains in LEAPS 2.0. The level of attainment will be converted to a bonus point(s) which can be used for admission to Junior Colleges / Polytechnics.

For more information on LEAPS 2.0, please refer to the website link: <http://bit.ly/LEAPS2>

6. Parent Support Group (PSG)

Parent involvement in schools has long been demonstrated to have a positive impact on the attitudes towards learning of the young, their level of motivation to learn and self-esteem. These are qualities which are indispensable in today's increasingly challenging environment. The PSG and the school is in a partnership with one common goal, which is for our young Marists to experience a rich and rewarding holistic education. You may find out about MSHS PSG on Facebook (Maris Stella High School Parent Support Group) or email to Linna Anna Woon at mshs.psgexco@gmail.com.

7. Chinese New Year Celebrations

Our school will be celebrating Chinese New Year on 15 Feb (Thu). The school hours on that day will be from 7.30 a.m. to 10.15 a.m. All students are encouraged to be dressed in red or traditional costumes and school shoes.

8. Brother Chanel Programme - Chinese Language and Cultural Appreciation Fortnight

To enhance the learning experience of Chinese language and to promote the appreciation of Chinese culture, we will be organising the annual "Chinese Language and Cultural Appreciation Fortnight" from 20 Feb - 2 Mar. During this period, we will be lining up a series of activities related to Chinese language and culture. By creating an environment for the learning of Chinese language and culture, we hope to enthuse our students to become active learners and proficient users of the Language as well as develop a deeper appreciation for Chinese culture.

9. Individual Student Details Report

As part of our school annual data verification and update exercise, we will issue a printed copy of the Individual Student Details Report to your child/ward. Kindly verify the accuracy of all the information, especially the contact number and email address for the person who is the point of contact, and the medical condition of your child/ward in the Individual Student Details Report. This information will be used in the case of an emergency. Please update us of your child's/ward's medical conditions by submitting the form with relevant medical information, e.g. medical report or letter by medical doctor, where applicable. The information will be useful for our planning of school events e.g. level camp, CCA, emergency situations, to ensure your child's/ward's well-being. Your child/ward is to submit the Individual Student Details Report, duly signed, to his Form Teacher.

10. Traffic Control

For parents who are sending their sons to school and dropping them off at the front porch in the morning, do ensure that your son has his belongings ready when he is alighting. To ensure a smooth flow of traffic, we would like more cars to drop Marists off at the front porch during the morning peak hour. Please cooperate with our support staff when they give directions to parents.

During dismissal, please park at the parking lots to wait for your sons if they are not at the front porch. Please do not park along the front porch as this would hold up the traffic.

11. School Policy on Student Well-Being

We will be conducting the temperature taking exercise on 5 Jan (Fri). To ensure that Marists are ready for this exercise, the Form Teachers will be checking Marists' Oral Digital Thermometer (ODT) from Wednesday onwards. Secondary One students will be given a new ODT.

We would also like to remind parents of the school policy regarding students who report sick whilst in school. In the interest of the safety and well-being of the child, we would not allow him to leave school on his own or allow him to take public transport (e.g. taxi) home on his own. Parents must come to bring him or arrange for an adult relative or care-giver to bring the child home or to the doctor. We do acknowledge that this may pose some inconvenience to parents, but we believe that parents would agree that this is important so as not to compromise on the safety and well-being of Marists.

11. Key Dates for Term 1

Please access <http://marisstellahigh.moe.edu.sg/secondary/secondary-calendar> for the scheduled school events. Below are some of the key dates for Term 1.

Level	Date	Activity/Event
Sec 1	2 - 5 Jan	Sec 1 Orientation Programme
	5 Jan	Sec 1 Level Briefing for parents
	12 - 14 Jan	Catholic Camp
Sec 2	12 Jan	Sec 2 Level Briefing for parents
Sec 3	6 Jan	Sec 3 Level Briefing for parents
Sec 4	19 Jan	Sec 4 Level Briefing for parents
All Levels	15 Feb	Chinese New Year Celebration
	16 - 19 Feb	Chinese New Year Holidays



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MARIS STELLA HIGH SCHOOL

Level	Date	Activity/Event
	20 Feb - 2 Mar	Chinese Language and Cultural Appreciation Fortnight
	10 Mar	Homecoming Fiesta
	10 - 18 Mar	Term 1 Holidays

Thank you for your support and cooperation.

Warm Regards,
Mrs Woo Soo Min
Principal