

**Canberra Primary School
P5 Forum 2017
Q & A Session**

General

1 Where can we get to see the P5 Camp photos?

- The photos will be collated and put up on the school website by the end of Week 10.

2 Can the House Practice be scheduled just one week before Canberra Fiesta, not around 2-3 weeks before Holistic Assessment (HA)? They need time to prepare for HA.

- The reason why there are 2 house practices is to allow students to have ample time to practise and strive for excellence which is one of the objectives for Canberra Fiesta. This will also allow our students to familiarise with the new events that are introduced this year.

Assessment

3 How did the school come up with the 67% benchmark for Holistic Assessment (HA)?

- The school has set 67% as a benchmark as it constitutes 2/3 of the overall assessment. This benchmark is an indicator to the child, teachers and parents that he or she has mastered the requisite of 2/3 of the content and is now ready to proceed to the next level.

4 Can parents have a say or appeal at the end of P5 if the parent feels that the child is not able to cope with standard subjects??

- Before the school makes the decision, we will speak to the parents first to share our concerns. Our ultimate goal is help the child to learn and perform to the best of his or her ability and graduate from PSLE. Offering standard subjects at PSLE is important as the content is at a much higher level. This will help the child to transit smoothly to Secondary School. What we will suggest for the child is for the best interest of your child. Parents must work together with the child for him or her to achieve success at PSLE.

5 Do the students know why the benchmark of 67% is set and why they need to take the Improvement Test?

- We have communicated to our students why we have set a benchmark 67% and the need for Improvement Test. However, the school is aware that we need to communicate the intent and processes more regularly. We are refining the process to explain to students why they need to take the Improvement Test and set a target of 67% as well as how to proceed from there.

6 Can I opt for other subject combination if I feel that he or she does not do well at the end of the year?

- If the child does not obtain the required marks to continue to stay in the same subject combination, the school will analyse his or her past years' results before recommending a way to ensure that he or she is in the best position to prepare for PSLE. We also keep in mind that we want the child to transit smoothly to secondary school.

Subjects

7 With regards to Oral, how do we prepare for Oral in terms of graphic stimulus based questions?

- Child must be able to form ideas or connect to the big ideas. Child needs to elaborate on these ideas. Child must also be able to elaborate answers to questions based on his/ her personal experience. It may or may not be related to STELLAR topics but it could be relevant to the child's personal experience. Parents need to encourage children to speak and think more.

8 In Math, are the units to be written only in the final answers? If written in between the problem, would marks be deducted?

- Units must be written at the end of the question in the answer blank.

Omission of units --- 0.5 marks will be deducted for each question where the unit is omitted, for questions which are 3 marks and above.

If students choose to write units within equations in their workings, then they have to be consistent and apply this throughout the working.

Example: \$3 + \$4 = \$7 (correct)

\$3 + (4) = \$7 (marks will be deducted for inconsistency of units)

9 Currently, Koobits help our kids in Math and Ezhishi in Chinese. May I know if there are any similar ones for their learning on English and Science?

Science

- Parents can get their children to use the AskNLearn platform to help them in their learning of English and Science. This portal contains interactive videos and quizzes for self-directed learning.

English

- Other useful resources the children can use to help them in English are:

On the Dictionary

<https://en.oxforddictionaries.com/> or

<http://dictionary.cambridge.org/>

Words in the news

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningenglish/english/features/witn>

10 For Mathematics Long Answer Question (LAQ), my child does not like to use model drawing. Will marks be awarded for model drawing?

- Drawing of model is part of the working. Models are usually drawn to illustrate the understanding of the question. If your child is able to solve the question without drawing a model, it is still acceptable but we strongly encourage the children to draw their models.
- Some students will skip writing the equation, do mental sums to solve and just write the final answer. In a LAQ, if the final answer is correct but no working is shown, the child will get only 1 out of the 5 marks. Teachers want to see the child's method as all the steps warrant marks. Therefore, parents must encourage your child to show workings for all questions.

11 Chinese & English compo writing is really a challenge for most kids. Can you share if such components will be weighted a lot during PSLE? Roughly how many percent?

- In the PSLE, the total marks for Chinese Language Paper 1 (Composition) is 40 marks and it takes up 20% of the total score for the subject. The other components include Paper 2 - Language Use and Comprehension (45%), Oral (25%) and Listening Comprehension (10%).
- We are aware that composition writing could be a real challenge to some students. Students can do better in their composition writing by observing the following practices:
 - 1) Answering the topic and using at least one picture to support the topic
 - 2) Drawing a mind map/ outline of a story - to ensure that they are answering the topic while coming up with an outline
 - 3) Developing on the main points of the story
 - 4) Using appropriate vocabulary words to support the topic and correct emotions

12 Is grammar important in Science?

- Generally, we do not penalise the students for wrong use of grammar. However, we read the answers in totality and award the marks accordingly. The way the students phrase the answers is very important as the meaning can be altered if students do not use proper grammar and sentence structure.

13 I have friends whose kids are studying at a nearby school. She shared that her kids are allowed to opt out Higher Chinese anytime, not till end of Term 4. Is it true for all Primary Schools including CPS?

- In CPS, students who have opted to study Higher Chinese in Primary 5 must complete the whole academic year before the decision is made whether to continue or opt out from the subject. This is because we want to give our students sufficient time to get used to and cope with the demands of the Primary 5 curriculum. Taking the subject for 1 full academic year will also allow students to have the opportunity to show improvement. The school and parents can then make a more informed decision after observing how the student performs in the subject at the end of the year.