



DUNEARN SECONDARY SCHOOL

21 Bukit Batok West Ave 2
Singapore 659204
Tel: 65653692 (Office)
65662126 (Heads of Dept.)
65668207 (Staff)
65669260 (PE Room)
Fax: 65668650

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Dear Parent/Guardian,

Introduction

It is with pride that I am writing to you to inform you that our students have turned in commendable performances for the 2014 N and O Level Examinations, the results of which were announced recently. For our O level candidates, we had a bumper crop of students scoring at least 4 distinctions, of which two students scored 7 distinctions.

In line with our school vision of academic and character excellence, my teachers encouraged the students in our graduating students to be determined and disciplined as they sought to better their predecessors' results. It is particularly heartening that the results demonstrate that it does not seem to matter if our students enter the school with average PSLE results. Rather, it is each student's willingness to listen to teachers' advice, be involved wholeheartedly in the school's academic and co-curricular programmes, and the personal qualities of resilience and endurance that ultimately make the difference.

In support of this, I am happy to share with you true success stories of Dunearnites from our 2014 graduating batch. I hope you will take the time to read these stories and talk about them with your child/ward.

Inspiring Dunearnites

Syed Muhammad Sabhansabhi

Syed Muhammad Sabhansabhi was posted to the Normal Technical course at Dunearn Secondary School in 2010. Syed proved to be an active learner with a positive work attitude. He was always trying hard and giving his best in order to achieve his goals, both academically and in co-curricular activities. His teachers built strong rapport with him through school camps and overseas learning journeys, developing in him a strong sense of belonging to school. His Form Teacher Ms Nur Hanani, who followed his class through their four years with the school, used platforms such as Pupil Teacher Relational Time, Form Teacher Time and class VIA projects to encourage him to learn from the past and to move forward. She made it a priority to motivate him to work hard towards achieving his aspirations.

In Secondary One, Syed qualified to transfer to the Normal Academic stream. He chose, however, to stay in the Normal Technical course and articulated the belief that he would still be able to succeed even if he chose to continue in this stream.

Being one who has a strong working rapport with others, Syed excels in obtaining peer support. His classmates and teachers know him to be a caring student who can always be counted upon to take the initiative to help classmates in need. In 2012, he was Class Chairperson. In 2014, he was captain of the school's Sepak Takraw team, leading his team to several wins at competitions.

Syed shows much resilience in the face of challenges and even, defeat. He is able to pick himself up and put in even more effort to achieve his dreams. More significantly, he is a genuinely caring person, believing in the importance of helping those in need. For his leadership capabilities, he was awarded the EAGLES (Leadership) Award in 2014. He also received the Edusave Bursary Award for Secondary Schools from 2011 to 2013. Syed has gone on to do an Aeronautical Engineering course at ITE. Syed's story was featured in the local media in December 2014.

Muhamad Khair B Mas'od

A student leader in and out of the classroom, Muhamad Khair B Mas'od exhibited drive to perform well for the subject of English Literature. This unique personal quality saw him learn to develop the skill of crafting essays with style and subtlety, progressively mastering both a solid grasp of literary content and an expressive flair in his writing. Khair attributes the steady strides he made in English Literature to the encouragement influence and guidance of both his Lower and Upper Secondary teachers, Ms Alicia Toh, Ms Goh K Thing, and Mr Tang Chee Onn. Khair improved to become the best English Literature essay writer in his cohort at the end of Secondary Four. Khair's commitment to self-improvement saw him rewarded with the Edusave Merit Bursary Award in 2012 and the Edusave Scholarship Award in 2013.

Winner of the school's Best in English Award (Secondary Three) in 2013, Khair is a bilingual student. Significantly, he stood out with his active participation in Malay Language drama and video competitions. In 2014, he garnered a Gold Award at the EDN Media National Malay Essay Writing Competition, contributing to his school achieving the Overall Best School Team Award. Equally committed to developing the qualities of leadership and service, Khair was a Staff Sergeant in the National Police Cadet Corps and a member of the school's Student Council.

An all-rounded student, Khair is grateful to the school for having had the opportunity to do English Literature as one of his 'O' level subjects. He attributes his passion for the subject to the various platforms his teachers provided for him to

engage with Literature and Drama. Khair hopes to go on to do Literature at a junior college. Khair's story was featured in the local media in January 2015.

Ng Guo Xun Jason

Jason was diagnosed with an eye condition at the age of 6. He and his family had not allowed his physical impairment hem-in his full involvement in all-round school life.

His poor vision is aggravated by the fact that his eye condition causes him to have difficulty seeing in bright light. In consultation with SEAB, SAVH and the parents, the school sought for special provisions (having an assistive device, a reader and a scribe) to be provided to minimize his disadvantage during national examinations.

Despite his visual impairment, with the support of his caring teachers and supportive peers, Jason benefitted from the school's caring environment and inclusive programmes. Through all these, Jason grew holistically.

A member of the 9th Student Council, Jason polished his leadership skills through his working experiences with fellow Councillors. He gained good understanding on organizational awareness through his involvement in major school events like Teacher's Day celebration, Speech Day and Graduation Night. During the Secondary One Orientation programme, he exhibited good facilitation skills, and patiently guided Secondary One students to adapt to the new environment.

Jason was the award recipient for the Edusave Scholarship Award (2011 and 2012), the Edusave Character Award (2013), and the school's Kelvin Ang's Humanities Award (2012) for being the Top Art Student at Secondary Two level. The many awards attained by Jason reflect his positive attitude towards learning, as well as his talent in Art.

As the President of the Info-com Club, besides helping his teacher-in-charge considerably, he also brings in various awards for the team. These includes a 5th place in Sony EYES award competition (2014), Certificate of Participation in the Schools of Digital Media Awards (SDMA).

Jason flourishes under the culture of care that the school provides. He is humble and motivated, and he exhibits great motivation and capacity in both academic and soft skills learning. Despite his visual impairment, he is participated activities in school activities, value adding to his development. He did well in the 'O' Level Examination 2014 and has graduated to take up Diploma in Environmental and Water Technology at Ngee Ann Polytechnic.

Chang Ern Ting

Chang Ern Ting was posted to Dunearn Secondary School in 2011. It is heartening to witness how Ern Ting has grown in her leadership skills from her exposure to the training and service opportunities provided by the school.

In Secondary 1, her Form Teacher recognized her strong people skills and high sense of responsibility. She was appointed Class Chairperson that year. In addition, recognizing her strong academic potential, she was identified by her Science and Mathematics teachers for the school's Future Problem Solving Programme, a talent development programme. Her team was one of the few heartland school teams to make it to the national finals.

Through exposure and opportunities to work with different groups of people, both peers and adults, Ern Ting became more confident and was able to put her classroom learning to good use. By way of example, Ern Ting had led students in contributing to the school's strategic planning process.

In 2013, Ern Ting was elected Vice President of Dunearn's 9th Student Council. A diligent and passionate leader, she played a significant role in leading the Student Council in planning and implementing many school events such as the Secondary One Orientation Camp, Teachers' Day Celebration and the Prefects and Class Chairpersons Training Camp. Besides planning for school events, Ern Ting also mentored junior student leaders.

As a result of her involvement in Student Leadership, Ern Ting has developed important people and time management skills. A well-disciplined leader, she now speaks with conviction and insight. Her mother's initial apprehension about the amount of time and degree of commitment required of Ern Ting has been allayed. This is due, in no small measure, to the close collaboration between the school and home.

Tan Jun Jie

With clear plans for his future and a hunger to strive for academic excellence, Jun Jie has demonstrated himself to be the model student academically. Some of the academic awards that he has garnered include: Most Value-Added Award (2011), Best in Level (2012 – 2014), Best in Science and Literature (2012), Best in Mathematics (2012 – 2014), Best in Additional Mathematics (2013), Best in Combined Humanities (2013 – 2014), Best in Biology (2014) and numerous Edusave scholarships.

Jun Jie is willing to go the extra mile to care for the welfare of his classmates and never hesitates to share knowledge with his peers. This was recognized by his teachers when he was awarded Edusave Character Awards (2012, 2013). Beyond the school, he involved himself in tutoring Mathematics at Unity Primary School and led his classmates on an Overseas Service Learning journey to Cambodia.

Jun Jie was a Class Chairperson (2012) and elected President of the school's 9th Student Council (2013). Under his leadership, the Executive Committee of the Student Council participated actively in school seminars, where they shared their experiences and views on student welfare and leadership development. The committee also made innovative changes to their daily routine of duties to ensure effectiveness and efficiency. Jun Jie worked alongside his peers in planning and

coordinating the school's Secondary One Orientation Programme (2014), mentoring the team organisers to ensure the successful execution of the event.

In his CCA, Jun Jie was a Station Inspector, the highest rank attainable by a secondary school cadet. Appointed as Training Head (2013), his responsibilities included planning the weekly training and looking after the welfare of the Cadet Leaders and cadets under his charge. Jun Jie contributed significantly to Dunearn's NPCC Unit achieving her 7th consecutive Gold Award for the Unit Overall Proficiency Award (2007 - 2013). His hard work and dedication was recognised by the school and the Corps, and he was awarded the Best Unit Cadet Award (2014).

Demonstrating academic and character excellence, Jun Jie serves as a role model to others. He has applied to continue his education at a junior college.

Conclusion

The Dunearnites listed above remind us to keep striving towards the realization of our dreams and aspirations. They are a true inspiration to all of us.

My teachers and I are grateful for and look forward to your continuing partnership and support as we guide and encourage our students towards academic and character excellence.

Thank you.

Yours sincerely,

Boo Hian Kok
Principal