



FEEDBACK

At our recent Parent Teacher Meetings we gave out a feedback form and I would like to thank those parents who took the time to fill it in.

From the feedback at Jurong branch the coldness of the rooms and the elderly look/cleanliness of the internal toilets were the main concerns. We are pleased to say that our contractor had already submitted a proposal for a radical change in the air con system and work will have been conducted on our closed days (Mondays & Tuesdays) by the time you read this newsletter. Our contractor and I are currently discussing ways to improve the appearance of the toilets and we have already changed our contract cleaners to improve the daily cleanliness.

From the feedback at our new premises in Orchard Plaza, some parents are concerned about the current renovations to the building. The management are spending \$7 million on external and internal improvements. It was agreed that our 5th floor would be finished first so when we moved in on Jan 2nd the floors, ceiling and toilets were all completed on our floor, which enhanced our own renovations in our bigger classrooms. However, the atrium ceiling, requiring scaffolding to be erected up all the five floors, was deferred to after the Chinese New Year to avoid spoiling trade for the tenants on the lower floors. Currently the area looks worse than it did in January, but when the ceiling is finished, the scaffolding is removed, and all the new lighting is switched on the interior will look wonderful. In the meantime we ask parents to be patient. Inside our classrooms is clean and quiet, as all major work is done during the night.

Kovan, Bishan and Simei feedback has generally been good, and in all the branches our parents have been very complimentary about our teachers and how much the children enjoy the classes.

If at any time you would like to feed back information, positive or negative, contact me directly at morris@morris-allen.com.sg

GST

As you all know the GST rate changes from July 1st. The lesson charges for MASC and The Maths Solution will increase slightly, but rounded down to the following:

MASC

- Wednesday & Friday classes \$37 → \$37.77 rounded down to \$37.50
- Thursday classes \$45 → \$45.90 rounded down to \$45.50
- Saturday & Sunday classes \$52 → \$53.07 rounded down to \$53.00

TMS

- Termly fee of \$380 → \$387.23 rounded down to \$387
- \$350 → \$357

If you would like to save money we are happy to accept advance payments before July 1st at the old rates. If you wish you can pay to the end of the year at the old rate as long as we receive payment by June 30th.

QUIZ

Here's some fun for all the family. Fax, or mail or hand deliver your answers to your branch by April 30th. The first correct entry at each branch will win a prize of a \$50 book token, a free lesson voucher (worth up to \$53 off your next fee payment) and a signed copy by the author of a Mr. Midnight book. [All the answers can be found in this newsletter].

1. Who is the Manager of The Maths Solution? _____
2. How much is the P3 Screening holiday programme? _____
3. What are being improved in the Jurong premises? _____ and _____
4. What per cent of students qualify for an "E" class? _____ %
5. What is "Ants on the Apple" ? _____
6. How many branches have MASC and Tien Hsia? _____
7. Which 2 countries is Mr. Allen visiting in April? _____
8. When does the MASC term 2 end? _____
9. Where are the 2 Orange Tree Preschools located? _____ and _____
10. What should parents check every week? _____
11. What should parents check every month? _____
12. In which branch does Pappa work? _____
13. What is the name of Carol's new job? _____
14. Which primary school hosted our Curriculum Day? _____
15. How can you save money before July 1st? _____

YOUR NAME _____ CONTACT NUMBER _____
 CHILD'S NAME _____ INDEX NUMBER _____



P3 SCREENING

All students in our current P3E classes are invited to join my 2 week holiday programme in June (Monday 11th to Friday June 22nd). The classes are daily, Monday to Friday, for 2 hours from 10.30 am to 12.30 pm. The class can be quite large, as it is not an interactive programme like our regular classes. Rather it is a training programme to prepare P3's for the GEP test in August. The students learn time management, problem solving tactics, how to recognize the 3 types of IQ test, how to avoid panicking in the examination and how to be psychologically prepared for the Maths & English components of the GEP screening test. During the second week the students have a chance to try the skills they acquire in the first week, and a detailed score summary sheet is given to parents at the end of the course. Parents are encouraged to attend a feedback/Q&A session after the last lesson. (12.45 pm to 1.45 pm Friday June 22nd). The whole 2 week course costs \$600.

To book a place call Noor at 6734 1601.

Parents of children in our regular P3 classes can request a preliminary evaluation to see whether they can attend the course. The materials are very challenging, done against tight time constraints, and very intimidating for average students so we do not normally allow regular P3 students to do the June holiday course.

"E" CLASSES

Some of our newer parents are unaware of the "E" classes on offer at MASC. "E" stands for extension and the classes are for the brightest children (the top 2% in a cognitive ability test [CAT] – which is like an IQ test). We do not use the word "gifted" because that should only be used if a qualified and registered psychologist conducts an IQ test on your child. As educators we are allowed to use CAT's but avoid labeling the brightest children "gifted".

During the first term we conduct our English tests (a Reading test and a Writing Skills test). Then we give the students a CAT. Where there are spaces or available slots we offer parents the chance to move to an "E" class. The advantage of an "E" class is that all the other students are in that top 2% band, the teacher can present more challenging material and the students are more motivated and engaged.

If the class offered does not suit the family arrangements then the child can stay in the original class where the teacher will ensure that the child is given more challenging materials. However, the element of peer interaction and stimulus is lacking

so it is much better if parents can rearrange timetables to allow their child to attend an "E" class.

RECRUITMENT

As you read this newsletter I will either be in Wellington or Christchurch in New Zealand recruiting new teachers for 2008. I have received about 170 applications so far and the short list of about 35 teachers are now being interviewed in

their home countries. My itinerary this year is Auckland, Wellington, Christchurch and Dunedin, all in New Zealand, and Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, Adelaide and Perth in Australia. As always I expect to find about 15 to 20 of the best teachers and sign them up for next year.

HELPFUL HINTS

As good parents, try to "do" some of the 21 things listed in my book "21 ways to Score A's", and try to stop doing some of the things listed under "don'ts".

For example:

DO

1. Do show affection
7. Do go out and about
16. Do watch T.V. together

DON'T

1. Don't physically or mentally abuse your children
6. Don't make them sit still for long periods
9. Don't choose books for your children

Your children will be happier and more successful students.

FIRE DRILL

We hold 2 fire practice drills each year, and in Jurong, Simei, Kovan and Bishan where we share premises with Tien Hsia we will be holding joint practices in future. It is really important that our teachers, admin staff, students, and even parents in the waiting area, take part in the practices and



know where to go and how to behave. We hope that you, as responsible parents, will accept the slight disruption to 2 classes a year, in order to protect your children. If you are on the premises when a drill occurs please follow the instructions of the Fire Safety Officers.

ISO AUDIT

It is that time of the year. We have been conducting our internal audit (I was audited the day before I wrote this article – and I passed!) and now the external, independent auditors will be inspecting us at the end of April. It is one of the many ways we have of ensuring high standards at MASC and also maintaining consistent standards in all the branches.

LESSON REPORT SLIPS

Please remember to look at the “Lesson Report” slips being given to the children at the end of each lesson. The slip indicates the government syllabus items covered in each lesson. We are very focused on results and realize that we need to help our students to perform in the local exam system. In every lesson your children are covering elements of the government syllabus.

SCHOOL HOLIDAYS

Just a brief reminder that MASC term ends at 6.25 pm on Sunday June 10th, in other words 2 weeks into the government school holidays, so to avoid disrupting your child’s studies at MASC please try to take overseas holidays in Weeks 3 & 4 of the government schools holidays.

ORANGE TREE SIMEI

We have recently appointed a lively and hard working new supervisor at our preschool in Simei Eastpoint Mall, named Jolene Tan Bee Leng. She comes from a successful job with another local preschool and we welcome her to our organization.

If any of you in the Simei or Bedok areas have younger children and would like a tour of our Orange Tree Preschools at Techlink or Eastpoint Mall, call Khadijah at 67457877 or Jolene at 65441223.

ADMIN CHARGES

To ensure a good balance of personnel and to increase the effectiveness of our front desk staff we have relocated Lawrence from Bishan to Orchard, while Cleo has moved from Orchard to Bishan. Terry has left Simei and has been replaced by Peter (who was trained at Kovan) while Eileen from Kovan is leaving to pursue further studies and Pappa (who worked on the front desk when Kovan first opened) is rejoining us to replace Eileen.

Carol at Jurong has been promoted to a Head Office role as Enrolment Director. Although she will still be placed in Jurong she will assist all branches to improve their enrolments and handle withdrawals more effectively. Jesline Chan will replace Carol at JEB front desk.

HAFC

Our Help A Friend Card is designed to increase our enrolment and to reward our loyal customers who recommend friends to join us. For each friend who joins you receive a free lesson for your own child. 10 friends and you get a free term! Do keep up your good work and spread the word. We will keep up our good work too.

CREATIVE WRITING

We regularly have requests for classes on creative writing or holiday programmes to learn creative writing. Many parents do not realize that creative writing and writing a composition are the same thing. The end result is compo. The process can vary. A boring teacher says “It’s Tuesday. The Principal says you must do 15 compo per year. So today is compo day. Title – “My Family”. Write 150 words. You have 1 hour. No talking” However, the teachers at Morris Allen Study Centres will use a story or a DVD or a CD or shared experiences to create some lively, stimulating input. The students, talk, brainstorm ideas, share vocab and contribute to an enriching, interactive session. Then they can write individually with lots of creative ideas, and produce a compo. It is the method of creatively stimulating the students with interesting INPUT that make a session “creative writing” rather than a boring compo. Every writing activity at MASC is stimulating, interactive and creative. That is one of the many reasons your children love coming to our centres

However, if your child would like to spend more time on creative writing we have a 10 week short course as an add-on to our regular course. For more details contact your local branch.



THE MATHS SOLUTION

Our Maths Manager, Nigel Shields, and his staff are doing a great job at all our branches. For those of you who have asked how our Maths is different from some of our better-known (franchised!?) competitors, here are the answers:-

- Our centres provide qualified, NIE- trained teachers who know the local school syllabus well. The small class size allows the teachers to provide personalized guidance to assist pupils who are encouraged to bring in any questions they may have in their school work or assessment papers or books. Some Maths courses provide facilitators who merely supervise pupils in their work with no proper instructions or help given. These facilitators may not all be qualified or trained.
- Worksheets are carefully prepared by us and are in accordance with the MOE syllabus. Several Maths centres force students through a curriculum which is not related to our local syllabus.
- Pupils are placed according to their school levels and learning abilities. Some centres have pupils of different age groups studying together.
- Manipulatives and mathematical games are incorporated into lessons whenever appropriate to reinforce concepts taught in class. Worksheets are tailor-made to fit the learning abilities of the pupils. **Our course fits the child. We do not make your child fit the course!** Allowing your child to experience success at the level of the worksheets that he or she attempts helps increase his or her confidence. More challenging work is given to pupils who are able to cope with the fundamentals. In addition, the positive learning environment we provide also increases the motivation of the child. The child's increased interest in Maths translates into more productive learning.
- Learning is on-going and is not based on the completion of worksheets. Surely you do not want to put your child in a
- centre where pupils are merely trying to achieve specific goals set or complete the stated number of worksheets, sometimes even having to redo the whole series of worksheets? The repetition is likely to lead to boredom and subsequently causes the child's interest level to drop and he or she will come to view Maths as a boring subject.
- Our parent-teacher meetings promote communication with parents. This vital link allows the teachers to address any concerns parents may have and for the teachers and parents to work in partnership to maximize the child's learning potential.

If you would like more information call 6253 2005.

CURRICULUM DAY APRIL 10TH

Mrs. Sabrina James, Principal of Edgefield Primary School, has kindly invited my entire staff to visit her school, observe some lessons, and share ideas with her teachers.

It is really important that my teachers understand the Singapore government school system so that they are able to help your children cope with the demands of the local curriculum.

We are extremely grateful to Mrs. James for being so generous in encouraging this sharing of information and ideas.

PSLE & "O" LEVEL SHORT COURSES

Our short courses for term 2 are now well under way and the demand has been so good that we are offering a "Part 2" short course to P6's and Sec 4's in Term 3. We will be sending out details and contacting parents nearer to the end of term.

The extra exam focus, the time management strategies and confidence boosting are all important aspects of the courses. Contact your branch for more details.

T.V. SHOWS

MASC & Tien Hsia are co-sponsoring 2 television shows during the May to August period. "Spell Cast" is a quiz show on TCS 5 from May 29th, Tuesday nights at 8.30 p.m., involving P5/P6 students in a spelling contest. "Kids' Minds" is a documentary series on TCS 8 from May 12th, Saturday nights at 9.30 p.m., showing students with various problems (such as dyslexia and eating disorders) coming to terms with their difficulties.

Watch out for these two informative programmes.

Sincerely,
Morris Allen, Principal

April 20th, 2007



MARKET PLACE

**21 WAYS TO SCORE A's \$9.90
(\$5 for parents of MASC)**

Copies of my book about how to help your children achieve more are still available at half price to parents from any branch.

ANTS ON THE APPLE

“Ants on the Apple”, an alphabet phonic picture book with cassette (\$19.90) or CD (\$24.90), is on sale at all branches. Great phonics practice for Nursery to P1 children.

WEBSITE

Don't forget to visit our Morris Allen website at <http://www.morris-allen.com.sg>

GREAT PLACES

Just a reminder that the revised, updated reprinted version of my leaflet “Great Places to go with and your Children” is available, free of charge, at any branch. Remember that it is really important to give your children stimulus, enrichment and experience outside of the classroom and homework.

MATHS & ENGLISH GAMES

We have an interesting collection of Maths and English games on sale at the Bishan branch. The games are displayed in the new display cases in the windows of the Maths rooms. Please approach the front desk staff to buy any of the games or puzzles.