



### *MARCH SCHOOL BREAK*

**W**e will be closed from Monday March 12<sup>th</sup> to Tues March 20<sup>th</sup> inclusive for the school holidays. Therefore there will be no classes Wednesday March 14<sup>th</sup> to Sunday March 18<sup>th</sup> inclusive. Have a lovely holiday and please give the children a break from assessment papers and study.

### *NEW TEACHERS*

**A**ll our new teachers are enjoying life in Singapore (especially their trip to the Tiger Brewery and buying pots at the Jungle Pottery) and are looking more relaxed now that they are getting to know our Singapore curriculum and expectations. They are looking forward to a rest in the March holiday. Welcome back, too, to our returning teachers, some of whom have changed branches.

### *HOUGANG BRANCH RECEPTION*

**P**arents will have noticed that our reception area in the Hougang/Kovan branch has been upgraded. This should allow an easier flow to the classrooms and more visibility for our centre. We also felt that the tiles on the walls and floor of the lift area were rather dreary so all five tenants agreed to carpeting and painted walls. We hope the impression given is more pleasant.

### *NZ NATIONAL PLAYER*

**C**hris Wall at our Bishan branch was away in South Africa for a week attending an international touch football competition. He had been selected for the national New Zealand squad before he joined Morris Allen and we felt it was important that he be allowed to participate. The good news is that the team came second (although Chris would have preferred first).

### *QUARTERLY TEST PREPARATION*

**M**any schools are still conducting CA, MID YEAR, CA2, and FINAL examinations in the 4 terms of the year. Our teachers always cover the different elements of the government school curriculum, but in the week or two before each of the 4 school examinations we will practise the most important items during class time. The children will also be shown better study techniques and time management skills.

### *TRANS FATS*

**M**any of you will be aware of the health risks of hydrogenated fats (trans fats). Two of our local biscuit manufacturers are producing biscuits with NO trans fats and we are changing over to these. It is of great concern to us that we try to provide a healthier alternative for all our students. For more information you can visit the Ministry of Health website.

### *GIFTED SCREENING*

**A**s usual I will be conducting my annual preparation course for the P3 Screening Examination during the June holidays, at the Orchard Branch. Seats are strictly limited. Classes are from 10 am to noon. Dates are Monday 11<sup>th</sup> June to Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> June, Monday to Friday, 2 hours a day. The cost is \$600 for the whole 2 weeks course. The children are taught time management skills, how to manage panic, how to solve all types of IQ problems (numerical, verbal and visual) and are exposed to English and Maths materials at a challenging level. It is an enjoyable course and the feedback in the past has been very positive. Please contact Noor at 6734 1601 to book a place. All students in our P3 "e" classes are eligible to apply.

## *T.V. IN THE CLASSROOM*

In our classrooms the teachers occasionally use a television set, with a video or DVD player. The students do NOT watch live television, NOR is the television used as a babysitting device. The programmes shown are educational and have been selected by me for their quality content. With older students the focus of the class may be on listening comprehension, followed by vocabulary enrichment, followed by some creative writing, stimulated by the content of the educational video.

With younger students the video may be an action song or short story or game that the teacher uses for vocabulary reinforcement, listening skills, linguistic patterning and stimulus for discussion. The video is always used for a specific educational purpose and should be reflected in the teacher's lesson plan. If you have not seen (or forgotten) my article "Switch on That T.V" you can obtain a copy from your centre. It emphasizes the language enhancement of children by listening to native speakers.

## *ADMIN. ADDITION*

At our Hougang Branch we welcome Peter Chin who is on training and will join our permanent staff.

## *MONTHLY RESULTS FOLDERS*

Please remember to look in your children's Monthly Results Folders. Check the description in the front so that you understand the way the school topic has been handled.

Don't forget that we always work towards the same curriculum objectives as the government schools, although our methods and materials are often very different.

Also by looking in the folder you will be showing your children that you support their learning and take an interest in what they are doing. Please avoid criticizing – look for ways to positively reinforce what is going on in our centres.

MRF 1 (Composition/continuous writing) was sent home last week. There are also posters up in the branches explaining how we teach each MRF topic.

In addition to the 8 MRF samples, this year we are adding in several more to give you a more regular impression of what we are doing. Please sign the check list at the front to show us that you have been shown the folder.

## *CHINA*

The winter winds delivered an influx of students to Morris Allen English (MAE). Prior to the October holiday attendance was very low but with the onset of winter numbers have begun to increase. Every week new students are enrolling; this is despite the Xmas holiday and the CNY/winter break. At present 45 students are enrolled on MAE programmes and 6 more students are waiting to start.

There are at present 20 classes open. The phonics programme is the most popular. We also have Enrichment classes from P1 - P6. MAE is also running a number of English As A Foreign Language courses at beginner and intermediate level with 10 adult students attending. MAE also teaches Business English to 15 members of staff at Futurestep, an international recruitment company.

The Shanghai centre is very multi-national with students from China, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, Malaysia, Australia and America. After CNY we have high hopes of a rapid increase in student enrolment aided by a more focused marketing campaign.

## *JUNE & NOVEMBER HOLIDAYS*

Just a gentle reminder – MASC is open 44 weeks a year, while government schools are open 40. This means that we teach 2 weeks into the June break and 2 weeks into the end of year holidays. To avoid missing lessons, wasting fees and missing curriculum time, it would help us enormously if parents could plan overseas travel in the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> week of the June holiday and/or the 3<sup>rd</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> week of the end of year holiday. That way your children get a break without breaking the flow of our course, especially as we will be running the Jump Start programme after the final exams, right up to the end of term 4.

## *HAFC*

Please remember to claim your reward if you introduce a friend. Our 'Help A Friend Card' entitles you to one free lesson for your own child for each friend who enrolls with us. A card is enclosed with this mailing.

## *90 MINUTES CLASSES*

We are pleased by the response to our Wednesday & Friday evening 90 minute classes. They are more affordable, and by reducing the book review and storytelling times and removing the snack break we can still deliver the full curriculum objectives. The main difference will be that the students will have a little less personal attention because of the time constraints.

For above average students it will not affect them much. For average or below average students who need more individual help I would recommend the 2 hour classes.

### **SHORT COURSES**

Our short courses last year, written and taught by members of our own staff, were a big success, especially the PSLE preparation course and Mr. Allen's annual P3 GEP Screening Examination preparation course in the June holidays. Although our teachers prepare all our P6 students for the PSLE in the regular classes, those average and below average students gained from the extra emphasis during the short course. We will be offering more short courses including PSLE and 'O' level intensive preparation during term 2 and 3 this year. Watch out for details soon.

### **THE MATHS SOLUTION**

The Maths Solution has now over 200 students enrolled and the students have been showing remarkable improvements. Classes are now timetabled for term two 2007 so if you haven't chosen a slot yet, be quick. All branches now run classes. Phone 6253 2005 for more details.

Please remember we have an HAFC scheme for maths too, so even if your child does not attend The Maths Solution, you can have a free English lesson if you introduce a friend/relative to our maths courses.

### **PTM's**

Our Parent/Teacher meetings are now underway as I write this. This is a great opportunity to discuss your child's strengths and weaknesses and plan for further improvement. The feedback has been wonderful – my teachers always end up with a warm glow after all the praise parents give them. It really makes all the hard work worthwhile. Those of you who were unable to come, remember that you can have a telephone interview. Please ensure that the teacher has a number that is convenient for you (we don't want your boss screaming because you are on the phone for 10 minutes with Mr. Allen's teacher).

### **INTERNATIONAL STANDARDS ORGANISATION (ISO)**

It is that time of year again. We are now conducting our internal audit for ISO, ready for the external audit at the end of May. We try to maintain our high standards, and as new teachers arrive it is important that they all learn the procedures at Morris Allen Study Centres ; all of which is another guarantee of quality in our centres.

We are still the only study centre in Singapore with ISO certification.

### **CHARITY DONATIONS**

Once again we have organized free lessons this year for students from the Gracehaven Home and some children from the Children's Cancer Foundation.

Some of our teachers and admin staff also subscribe on a monthly basis to helping the school in North East Thailand, Paa Tae Primary School. Our monthly donations have provided all the children with a good meal every day, and they have managed to install a satellite T.V. to pick up the educational broadcasts which are now available in Thailand. Our Children's Day contribution paid for a new library room and we are currently getting the whole school painted, inside and out.

*Sincerely,  
Morris Allen, Principal      February  
14<sup>th</sup>, 2007*

## ***MARKET PLACE***

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

**C**opies 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**

“**A**nts 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**

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

### **GREAT PLACES**

**J**ust 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**

**W**e 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.