



5 Jan 2022

Ref: BBSS22-001

Dear Parent/Guardian

WELCOME TO A NEW SCHOOL YEAR AT BBSS!

1. My warmest greetings to you. It has been a tough 2021 amidst the COVID-19 period. As Singapore transits further into becoming a COVID-19 resilient nation, with the gradual easing of community measures and Vaccinated Travel Lanes (VTLs) opened for travel during the holidays, I believed more of our students are better rested, energised and ready to start the new academic year. On behalf of the school, I would like to thank all parents/guardians for:

- your continuous support towards your children/wards in their holistic journey; and
- being our ambassadors as shared by P6 parents/guardians who got to know about BBSS from you.

2. **Celebrating Achievements** – We have accolades to share from the last quarter of 2021 (*Annex A* provides additional details, if any, of these achievements).

Domain	Achievement
Academic	<p>NYP e-Science & Technology Challenge 2021 Most Innovative Award in Build your Dream Aircraft (Category 3)</p> <p>Navarasam 2021 Competition 2nd, Singing competition – Ganesan Varshini, 3A7 1st, Poetry competition – Venkateswaran Gayathiri, 2A4 2nd, Dance competition – Vijayakumar Shivani, 1A4 and Joevin Upalica d/o Arulandhu, 2A4</p> <p>Live on Festival 2021 – Design Competition High Distinction - Lau Zi Suan, 3A5; Merit - Rachel Chang, 3A6</p> <p>Historical Scene Investigation (H.S.I.) Challenge 2021 Silver - Adityan Subramaniam, Jacqueline Liew Wen Xuan, Ramesh Buvanesh Ram and Thulasiraman Nikhita from 2A5</p> <p>W7 Upload! Online Art Competition 2021 – 3 distinctions, 2 commendations</p> <p>MakeX Spark Online Competition 2021 – 2 Best Demonstration Awards</p> <p>Computer Applications (CPA) Animation and Game (AGM) Competition 2021 Bronze Award (Animation Category) – Ee Wei Tong, 2A1 Bronze Award (Game Category) – Wayne Lau Zheng Heng, 3A1</p>
CCA (Uniform Groups)	<p>NCC (Sea)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Annual Sea Competition 2021 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Bends and Hitches Challenge – Male, 2nd Runner Up ○ Sea Proficiency & Knowledge – District Mixed Team, 1st Runner Up ○ Fitness Challenge – District Joint 1st Runner Up ○ Sea Challenge (Team Initiative) - District 1st Runner Up
Staff	<p>Listening Educator for Advancement and Progress (LEAP) Award 2021 Certificate of Commendation - Mr Ng Boon Chong, HOD/Applied Subjects</p> <p>Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2021 Finalist – Mr Samuie Tarjalia, HOD/EL</p> <p>MOE Service Excellence Award (MSEA) 2021 Platinum – Ms Stella Law, Administration Manager</p>
School	School Green Awards 2021 – Vanda Miss Joachim

3. **School Focus for 2022** – With the opportunities arising from the onslaught of the COVID-19 situation, we have commenced equipping each student with a personal learning device (PLD) through the **Personalised Digital Learning Programme (PDL) @ BBSS**. Our school has remained focused on enriching the learning experiences of all BBSSians and enhancing their future readiness through:

- **Effective Communication** – Our student ambassadors has done us proud through their efforts at our e-Open House on 27 Nov 2021 and the various e-Outreach sessions with the P6s of various primary schools. We will continue to nurture BBSSians to become effective communicators across various subject disciplines and contexts such as training student docents to be conversant in sharing the rich heritage/biodiversity of Bukit Batok to the community.
- **Blended Learning (BL)** – We have introduced the **Seek, Discover and Learn (SDL)** day since 2021 where students would learn from home via Home-Based Learning (HBL) every alternate Friday, integrating level-based programmes and activities on the even week of the students’ timetables. This year, we would incorporate the **Student-Initiated Learning (SIL)** programme into the SDL Day. This platform seeks to activate BBSSians’ intrinsic motivation to embark on a journey of joyful learning and self-discovery, and empowers students to experience the 3 “selves”¹ process and develop as self-directed learners with abundance mentality. Further details on the programmes/activities will be shared later in the year.
- **Digital Literacy** – Digital Literacy is about having the skills needed to live, learn and work in a society where communication and access to information is increasingly through digital technologies like internet platforms, social media and mobile devices. The COVID-19 situation has accelerated the use of digital technologies and has enabled us to move towards leading a **Blended Life**. The home-school partnership whereby the interaction between parents and teachers can now be a choice between e-PTM (Parent-Teacher Meeting) or face-to-face in school. Likewise, the face-to-face Principal’s Talk can also be delivered to parents through Zoom. You should, together with your child, refer to school activities/events via the school Google calendar and browse through the e-Student handbook to read -up on guidelines and other important information. Students will also be setting their targets and building their e-Portfolio through the school Education and Career Guidance (ECG) programme towards postsecondary/career choices. We aim to maximise the affordance of technology to build on BBSSians’ future readiness.
- **Environment Education** – In supporting the Singapore Green Plan 2030, our school is working towards becoming carbon neutral or even carbon neutral with zero waste by 2030. Featured in an episode (Drowning) of Mind Blown!, an investigative series featuring a trio of investigators who will encounter the strangest myths, misconceptions and modern day mysteries, our geography teacher, Miss Anita d/o Chandrasagan, together with 2 of our green ambassadors, shared on our sustainable school initiatives, latest of which is the completion of the Geography Learning Centre, a Test room for increased thermal comfort in our BBSS classrooms. Do scan the QR code or watch the episode via the [link](#) here to learn of our efforts (BBSS featured at 6 min 20 sec to 11 min 10 sec) till date. Also, as part of the SolarNova programme led by EDB and



¹ Nurturing self-directed learners with abundance mentality has always been our school mission and we will continue to build this culture amongst our students and staff through multiple platforms to practise self-managing, self-monitoring and self-modifying – the 3 “selves” of a self-directed learner. Beginning at the personal level, a BBSSian could actualise the 3 selves as such:

- Self-Managing – Plan academic goals for the year.
- Self-Monitoring – Carry out the required actions, making decisions along the way to alter the actions where necessary.
- Self-Modifying – Reflect to make changes to own behaviour and apply learning to future plans.

A Self-Managing Person	A Self-Monitoring Person	A Self-Modifying Person
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has a sense of clarity about the outcomes • Has a plan of action • Draws from past experiences • Anticipates success indicators • Creates alternatives for accomplishment 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Has sufficient self-knowledge about what works • Has good reflective (metacognitive) strategies • Makes good decisions about the need to alter plans where necessary • Chooses the right actions and strategies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflects, evaluates, analyses • Constructs meaning from experiences • Modifies his thinking, attitude and behaviour after reflection • Applies the learning to future activities, tasks and challenges

HDB that aims to accelerate solar deployment, work would begin to erect solar panels on our rooftops to save further on electricity towards the end of the year.

4. **Video Recording and Photography in School** – As an institution that continually seeks to improve the learning experience of students, ongoing research by our staff may entail filming and photography on the school premises. Such material may also be used for publicity and/or presentations. Please approach your child/ward's form teacher if you have any concerns.

5. The operating environment for our children/wards is becoming more complex and challenging. BBSS understands the need to build a positive environment in school to help them navigate this environment and move ahead. There will be more challenges ahead and we seek parents'/guardians' partnership to reinforce a positive environment at home to support their children/wards' learning and improve their resilience. Also, with global warming leading to undesirable climate changes, for parents/guardians to provide sustainability opportunities for your children/wards as well.

6. On this note, I will end off with our best wishes to you and your family in the New Year. May the year ahead be an enriching one and may you all enjoy good health and happiness.

Yours faithfully

Mr Phua Huat Chuan
Principal

(This letter has been posted electronically on Parents Gateway. No signature is required.)

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Details of Achievements

Domain	Achievement
Academic	<p>NYP e-Science & Technology Challenge 2021 Evangelista Soh Jia Xiu, Nabil Asyraf Bin Aaim from 3A3 and Jayden Tan Wei Xiang, Nur Hakimah Binte Razali from 3A2 participated in the Nanyang Polytechnic (NYP) e-Science & Technology Challenge 2021 (e-STC). e-STC is an annual event organised by the School of Engineering and was conducted virtually in 2021. Using only recycled materials, they designed and built an aeroplane that obeys the Bernoulli's Principle. The team clinched the Most Innovative Award in Build your Dream Aircraft (Category 3).</p> <p>Navarasam 2021 Competition Held at the National Level, our students achieved the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2nd, Singing competition – Ganesan Varshini, 3A7 • 1st, Poetry competition – Venkateswaran Gayathiri, 2A4 • 2nd, Dance competition – Vijayakumar Shivani, 1A4 Joevin Upalica d/o Arulandhu, 2A4 <p>You can catch the performances at this timings on the YouTube link (https://youtu.be/lhL59-Hjigc) for the competition:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 0:36:41 for dance performance • 1:01:57 for poetry recital • 1.27.12 for singing <p>Live on Festival 2021 – Design Competition Live on Festival (LOF) is organised by the National Organ Transplant Unit, Ministry of Health. LOF celebrates having participants, youths in particular, expressing their thoughts on organ donation and transplantation through art and writing, serving as a platform for exploring values of responsibility, compassion, empathy and altruism through the delicate and emotive nature of the topic of organ donation and transplantation. While the news that Gareth Seah Ren Xiang (2A6) and Yuen Mann Mei Rachele (3A4) was awarded 2nd and 3rd place in the Junior and Senior category respectively for the Essay Competition was shared in the previous term letter, the school is equally proud to announce that Lau Zi Suan (3A5) and Rachel Chang (3A6) had emerged as High Distinction and Merit Winners respectively in the Design Competition. The winning artworks and essays of our students can be viewed via the direct links:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • https://www.liveon.gov.sg/gallery.html?Institution=BukitBatokSecondarySchool • https://www.liveon.gov.sg/showcase.html?Institution=BukitBatokSecondarySchool <p>Historical Scene Investigation (H.S.I.) Challenge 2021 4 of our Sec 2 History students participated in the Historical Scene Investigation (HIS) Challenge. HIS is an annual contest where students apply their historical research and inquiry skills to solve a historical event. This event is supported by MOE CPDD Humanities (History Unit) in conjunction with their Young Historians Award which is given out to the winning teams. Adityan Subramaniam, Jacqueline Liew Wen Xuan, Ramesh Buvanesh Ram and Thulasiraman Nikhita from 2A5 achieved the Silver Award for their efforts!</p> <p>W7 Upload! Online Art Competition 2021 This inaugural art competition was organised for our students in the West 7 Cluster schools to share their passion and showcase their talents on virtual space. Besides allowing students to hone their creativity, art skills and boost their confidence as blooming young artists, it also served as an eye-opening opportunity for them to see how peers from other schools express themselves through the art pieces created on a common theme. The theme for this year is “The New Normal”. The winning entries were also featured in the virtual gallery residing in the W7 Euphoria for the Arts Website launched officially on 14 Oct 2021. Each school was allowed 5 participants. Judged by distinguished members of the Art fraternity consisting of the Deputy Director/Arts (Singapore Teachers' Academy for the aRts) and 2 NAFA lecturers, all 5 participants from BBSS were awarded the following for their entries: Distinction – Chen Bingkun (2A2), Lau Zi Suan (3A5), Loke Zien Le (3A6) Commendation – Ng Vic Xyon (2A5), Rachel Chang (3A6) You can view the winning artworks at https://w7euphoria.edu.sg/w7-upload-online-art-competition-results-2021/</p>

Domain	Achievement
	<p>MakeX Spark Online Competition 2021 In Oct and Nov 2021, 2 teams of students from 1A5 participated in the MakeX Spark Online Competition as part of ALP's effort to develop our Tier 2 and Tier 3 talent. The competition is a project-based creative design programme for young people aged 6 to 16. The participating team will need to focus on the specific theme (Family Care for 2021) and devise a demonstration project and a poster with topics including research, design-thinking process, construction scheme, and outcome summary using software programming and hardware. Both teams submitted videos explaining their projects and both won the Best Demonstration awards, exemplifying our school's effort in Effective Communication.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Team Falconite – Srinivasan Prajavin, Zach Anugrah Chu • Team Excellent Era – Saran Barathi, P G Giri Nevaas <p>Computer Applications (CPA) Animation and Game (AGM) Competition 2021 The AGM Competition is an annual competition organised by the Computer Education Unit, Curriculum Planning and Development Division, MOE. Entries were submitted for CPA students and Ee Wei Tong (2A1) and Wayne Lau Zheng Heng (3A1) achieved the Bronze Award (Animation Category) and Bronze Award (Game Category) respectively.</p>
CCA (Uniform Groups)	<p>NCC (Sea) Annual Sea Competition 2021 The competition this year was conducted via a mix of online assessments and physical assessments in school in line with SMM. Our Sea cadets gave of their best and put their skills to the test, both against their fellow cadets from other schools and most importantly, against themselves. Our cadets did very well in the various components:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bends and Hitches Challenge – Hemang Sharma (1A7), Male, 2nd Runner Up • Sea Proficiency & Knowledge – District Mixed Team, 1st Runner Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Nabil Asyraf Bin Aaim (3A3), Chia How Chien (2A5), Thahirah Binte Abdullah (1A1), Yuen Zhan Yee J Justin (1A2), Thiyagarajan Nevarshan (1A4), Tan Yee Kiat (1A6) • Fitness Challenge – Swee Yu Xin Felicia (3A7), District Joint 1st Runner Up • Sea Challenge (Team Initiative) - District 1st Runner Up <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Packiaraj Petrick Saron (3A5), Lee Shao Zhe Shamus Lee (3A8), Lucas Siow Yu Xuan (2A2), Kan Tak Yan (2A5), Yeap Kingsley (2A7), Thaddeus Ang Rui Jun (1A7)
Staff	<p>Listening Educator for Advancement and Progress (LEAP) Award 2021 The annual Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan's Listening Educator for Advancement and Progress (LEAP) award recognises exceptional educators who have made a positive impact on their students. A total of six primary school teachers, five secondary school teachers and two special education teachers received the award at the Singapore Hokkien Huay Kuan Cultural Academy. Mr Ng Boon Chong was nominated for his belief, passion and dedication to his students, of which one such beneficiary is Thaddeus, 4A6. Though not awarded, he receives a certificate of Commendation for his contribution towards education.</p> <p>Inspiring Teacher of English Award 2021 This award recognises teachers of English who are role models to both their students and colleagues and are passionate about making English interesting and relevant to their students through innovative and engaging methods of teaching. Mr Samuie Tarjalia was nominated for his influence, innovations and palpable passion for the language. He was shortlisted and interviewed for the award. Though not selected, he received a certificate of Nomination and heartfelt acknowledgements by the BBSS fraternity for his contributions as a dedicated and committed teacher and leader of English.</p> <p>MOE Service Excellence Award (MSEA) 2021 The annual MSEA recognise exemplary staff who are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Passionate in service delivery • Consistent in serving stakeholders with C.A.R.E. • Inspiring colleagues to do likewise <p>This year, 4253 nominees are awarded with 186 platinums, 1593 Golds and 2474 Silvers. The following staff were recognised for their exemplary service orientation:</p> <p>Platinum – Ms Stella Law Gold – Miss Fatin Sufiah, Mdm Jayanthi Appachamy, Miss Sum Xue Fen Silver – Ms Janice Lim, Ms Jane Lim, Mr Marshall Tan, Miss Nurbaniyah Binte Shukor and Mdm Salmah Bte Abu</p>

Domain	Achievement
School	School Green Awards 2021 The Outstanding Environmental Project Award from the Singapore Environment Council was the highest honour given to schools' efforts for School Green Awards 2021 and BBSS was 1 of only 6 schools to receive it. On 20 Sep 2021, the school also received the highest award of Vanda Miss Joachim after receiving the Yellow Flame award for a few consecutive years.

ANNEX B

Schedule for Principal's Talk and Parent-Teacher Meetings (PTMs)

During the PTMs, the school aim to communicate planned programmes and share on the progression of students to parents/guardians, and harness the support to work hand-in-hand with the teachers in developing them. At the Principal's Talk, perspectives will be shared on how parents/guardians can provide home support throughout the students' secondary school life in strong partnership with the school.

	Sec 1	Sec 2	Sec 3	Sec 4/5
Principal's Talk	Fri, 21 Jan (incorporating e-CCA Showcase) 4.00 pm – 8.00 pm	Fri, 1 Apr 7.15 pm – 8.45 pm	Fri, 25 Feb 7.15 pm – 8.45 pm	
PTM	Thu, 10 Mar (selected students), 3.00 pm – 5.00 pm			
	Fri, 11 Mar (selected students), 10.30 am – 12.30 pm			
	Thu, 26 May (ALL), 3.15 pm – 5.15 pm			
	Fri, 27 May (ALL), 8 am – 4.30 pm			

Calendar of Events

Do refer to the BBSS school calendar in the student handbook for schedules of school programmes and activities for the various levels. The table below highlights the major events in the first term.

DATE	EVENT
Wed, 5 Jan	S1 CCA Experiences & Trials (Boys' Session I) [3 pm – 6.30 pm]
Wed, 7 Jan	S1 CCA Experiences & Trials (Girls' Session I) [1.45 pm – 5.30 pm]
Mon, 10 Jan	S1 CCA Experiences & Trials (Boys' Session II) [3 pm – 6.30 pm]
Wed, 12 Jan	S1 CCA Experiences & Trials (Girls' Session II) [3 pm – 6.30 pm]
Fri, 14 Jan	Multi-Level Activities (MLA) for Sec 2 to 5
Fri, 21 Jan	Principal's Talk for Sec 1 Parents & e-CCA Showcase [4.00 pm – 8.00 pm]
Fri, 28 Jan	Seek, Discover and Learn (SDL) Day (ALL)
Mon, 31 Jan	Chinese New Year Celebrations [7.30 am – 10.30 am]
PUBLIC HOLIDAYS (TUE, 1 FEB TO WED, 2 FEB) – CHINESE NEW YEAR	
Fri, 11 Feb	Seek, Discover and Learn (SDL) Day (ALL)
Tue, 15 Feb	Total Defence Day
Fri, 25 Feb	Multi-Level Activities (MLA) for Sec 4/5N Seek, Discover and Learn (SDL) Day (Sec 1, 2 & 3)
	Principal's Talk for Sec 3 & 4/5N Parents [7.15 pm – 8.45 pm]
Thu, 10 Mar	Parent-Teacher Meeting (selected students) [3.00 pm – 5.00 pm]
Fri, 11 Mar	Parent-Teacher Meeting (selected students) [10.30 am – 12.30 pm]
	Seek, Discover and Learn (SDL) Day (ALL)
SCHOOL HOLIDAYS (SAT, 12 MAR TO SUN, 20 MAR)	

Opening Hours for School Gates

Do note the following regarding the opening hours of the school gates and latecomers.

Morning Assembly (7.30 am)	Before the chime for morning assembly	The front and back gates will be open from 6.30 to 7.30 am .
	After the chime for morning assembly	For safety and security reasons, only the front gate will be open. Latecomers can only enter from the front gate after 7.30 am.
After 8.00 am	Latecomers without valid reasons will need to report to the Principal or Vice-Principals.	

In the afternoon during curriculum time, the rear gate turnstile will be open at the following scheduled timings for **EXIT** only with exceptions that may be made during rainy weather and during the examination period.

Day	Time
Mon - Thu	1.25 – 6.30 pm
Fri	12.25 – 6.30 pm

Traffic Management & Road Safety

To ensure the safety of our students, the school **does not allow** vehicles to be driven into the school compound before morning assembly (7.30 am). The restricted space leading to the foyer and the heavy traffic volume in the morning makes it unsafe for the students. The following serves in advising parents/guardians who drop off/pick up their child/ward at school:

- Drive carefully at all times at a much reduced speed within the school zone.
- Children/Wards should be dropped-off outside the school **AFTER THE MAIN GATE** before morning assembly. The school security guards will be there to direct cars to the drop-off points. Do heed their instructions.
- Alternatively, the HDB car parks serving Block 160 to 164 may be used to drop off students while the rear gates are open till 7.30 am. There is no parking charge for vehicles exiting within 10 minutes.
- For children/wards alighting on the opposite side of the road, do drop them off nearer to the pedestrian crossing located a short distance from the main entrance. It is **dangerous and not advisable** for the children/wards to cross the roads without the assistance of the pedestrian crossing. There are no plans by LTA to build a pedestrian crossing immediately outside the school gates.
- In the event of rain, cars are allowed to be driven into the school compound to drop off/pick up child/ward at the foyer.
- To ensure a smooth flow of traffic, all parents/guardians are to follow the instructions given by the security guards and volunteers on duty.

Parents/Guardians may drive their vehicles into the school and park at designated visitor lots for **up to a duration of 15 minutes** after school hours to pick up their child/ward **without leaving their vehicles**. Students should liaise with parents/guardians to pick them up only when they are ready to leave the school. It is advised for students to be picked up alternatively from the rear gate in the HDB carparks serving Block 160 to 164.

Continue to exercise care at all times while driving within the school zone and in the school compound.

SUPPORTING YOUR CHILD'S /WARD'S

Transition to Secondary School

Transition is a period of adapting to change.

Your child / ward will be starting a new education journey as he / she enters Sec 1.

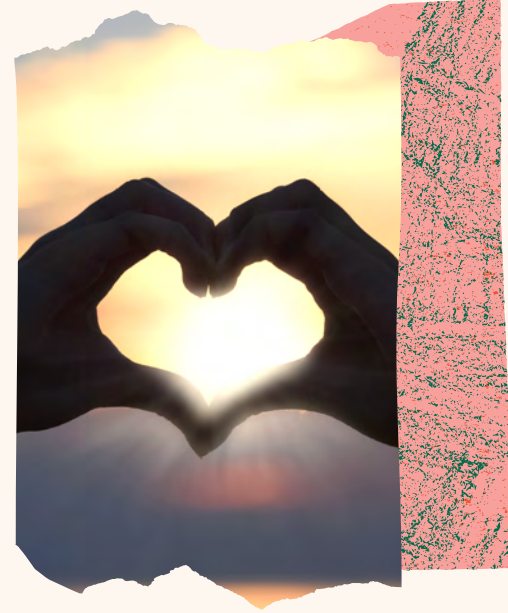
Here are some ways you can support him / her through this transition.

Recognise & Acknowledge

1

Your child / ward may be feeling worried and anxious about the coming change.

- Acknowledge their feelings.
- Provide encouragements.



Preparation

2

Share with your child/ward changes and expectations in secondary schools.

- Increase in number of subjects compared to primary school.
- Subject Based Banding
- Longer school hours (CCA, after school programmes)
- To be more independent in seeking help.



Be a listening ear

3

Encourage your child/ward to share their day in school to know more about their time in school and friends.



Collaboration with school

4

Inform school of your child's / ward's diagnosis so that school is aware and can better support his or her needs.



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