

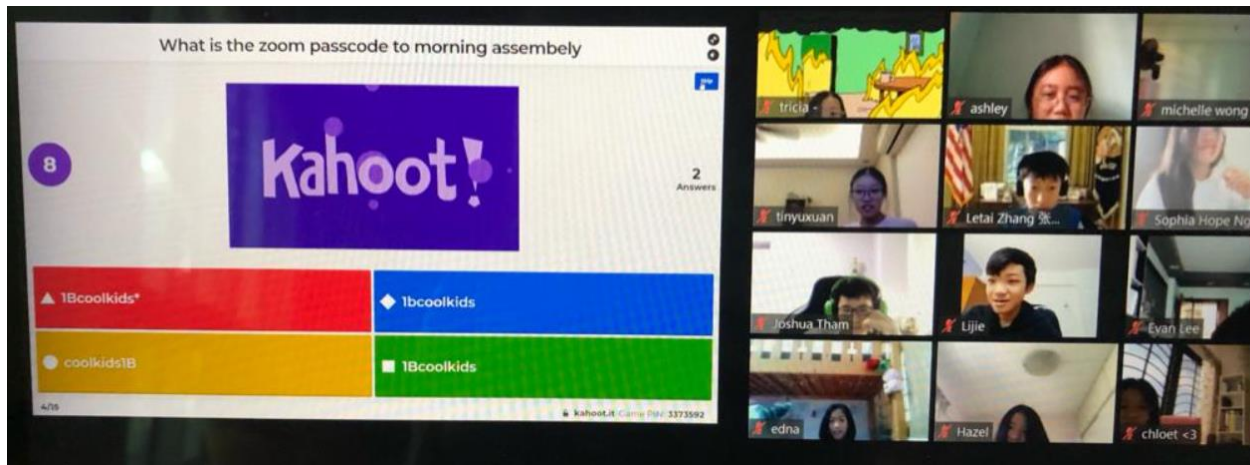
School Leaders' Updates [May 2021]

It is the end of another term, another semester—and the June holidays are upon us! While we may not experience the same kind of excitement we once had about the holidays before the COVID-19 pandemic, we must take comfort in the fact that we have gone through another tough semester, and it is time for the school to slow down the pace a little and find joy in learning things that capture their imagination.

Blended Learning

It is important for our students to be equipped with the necessary knowledge, skills and dispositions to thrive in an increasingly inter-connected and digital world. COVID-19 has pushed our teachers to use technology more pervasively to engage our students in learning through virtual classrooms. It is therefore not surprising that Blended Learning will now be a key feature of the schooling experience and will complement teaching and learning. This will further develop students' ability to be self-directed, passionate and life-long learners.

The latest round of Home-Based Learning (HBL), brought about by Phase 2 (Heightened Alert), coincided with our very own trial run of Blended Learning. We had wanted to test it because we did not expect that full HBL would be declared to stem the spread of COVID-19 in the community. So in a way, we were more prepared this time round...



... and we are glad that our students rose to the challenge of HBL and did their part.

With the current level of uncertainty, HBL is one way to ensure that our students do not lose out on their learning while we continue the battle against the virus. Students' learning during HBL Days will be supported by the Personalised Digital Learning Programme when our students get a personal learning device in the next semester.

From Term 3, 2021, **all Sec 1 students** will have regular HBL days, once a fortnight on a Thursday. Students will take charge of their learning and learn at their own pace in a less structured way (lessons will largely be asynchronous). They will also have the opportunity to

engage in Self-Initiated Learning (SIL) to experience the joy of learning, from learning to play the guitar to picking up the Korean language.

Sec 2-4 students may not have regular HBL days next semester but they will in 2022 in accordance to MOE's roll-out plan. This is to give teachers the time to focus on getting the pedagogy right for BL with one level first, before scaling it up to the rest of the school.

With curriculum time set aside for once-a-fortnight HBL, the school will come up with a new 10-day timetable for the next semester (which will be shared with students towards the end of the June holidays). This new timetable may need a bit of getting used to but if your child/ward is able to develop the habit of planning ahead for the week, there should not be any issue at all.

CCA Achievements

This year's sporting season began with optimism because of the low number of COVID-19 cases in the community at the beginning of the year. With the Safe Management Measures (SMM) relaxed somewhat to allow for inter-school competitions then,



...our 'B' Division Volleyball boys clinched the South Zone championships!

Our 'B' Division girls managed to make it to the top four in South Zone. Our Badminton 'B' Division girls smashed their way to the finals and emerged 1st runners-up in South Zone. The rest of the sports could not compete because it was not possible to play without close physical contact. Intra-CCA modified games which satisfied the SMM were organised instead.



Our Fairfield English Drama sent two teams for the SYF presentation. Both plays were written, produced and staged by our very own drama students. The whole process from conception, 'workshopping', researching to performing brought rich learning for the students. The group learned and worked like a close-knit family and although one team was given "Distinction" and the other "Accomplishment", the students celebrated the strong bonds that were forged rather than the good results. Fairfield Dance also gave their best and both teams were given "Distinction" for their efforts. The Fairfield Symphonic Band sent in three teams and all achieved "Accomplishment". The Guitar Ensemble was also recognised for their good work and was given "Accomplishment". Our Fairfield Choir could not perform live but they also did their best and submitted a digital recording of their singing for expert feedback.

On the Uniformed Groups' (UGs) front, the Boys' Brigade produced a Founder's Awardee, the Girls' Brigade, two Pioneer Brigadier Brooch Awardees and from Red Cross Youth, a Director's Awardee. All our UGs made the best of the situation and adapted to the prevailing SMM to continue with their activities.

Blue Sky Challenge – the COVID edition

For the second year running, we will have to spend our June holidays in Singapore and with restrictions because of the tightened measures in this Phase 2 (HA). Even though we may not be able to enjoy all our "normal" social activities in Singapore, there are still many things we can do during these four weeks to refresh ourselves and explore new areas of growth. There is a brand new Blue Sky Challenge—the COVID edition (see below)—for your child/ward to do

something meaningful and constructive and to put into action the values we hold dear. These are things that our students can do even when they cannot go out as much as they would like.

Your child/ward should have received this challenge, as well as the Xtreme Reading Challenge in his/her email (please see below and attached). Do have a conversation about this and perhaps you can also encourage him/her by doing some of the above together as a family.

Continue to stay healthy and safe during the June holidays. God bless.

Blue Sky Challenge – the COVID edition

<p>Walk 10,000 steps for 5 days in one week Or if you don't want to go outside, set some other physical workout goals you can achieve indoors.</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Learn a new skill – e.g. bake your favourite cake, play the guitar etc</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Complete a craft project – e.g. jigsaw puzzle, colouring, making cards – that you can bless someone with.</p> <p>Date:</p>
<p>Call and talk (not message) to people you haven't talked to for a long time.</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Cook a special meal for your family.</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Declutter your room & find things to donate to charity, recycle or upcycle (reuse something to create something of higher value).</p> <p>Date:</p>
<p>Grow a plant from seed or cuttings and record how much it has grown by the end of the holidays.</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Take over the household chores from your parents for x days to share their burden.</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Keep a gratitude journal – at the end of each day, write down 3 things you are grateful for. You can also write a note to thank people you are grateful for.</p> <p>Date:</p>

Xtreme Reading Challenge

<p>Read a genre you wouldn't normally read</p> <p>Title:</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Read a biography</p> <p>Title:</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Listen to an audiobook</p> <p>Title:</p> <p>Date:</p>
<p>Read a book set in a non-Western culture</p> <p>Title:</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Read a non-fiction book</p> <p>Title:</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Listen to 3 educational podcasts (e.g. TED Talks)</p> <p>Titles:</p> <p>Date:</p>
<p>Read a book and share 10 new words you learnt</p> <p>Title:</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Read 5 commentaries in the newspaper and share what you learnt</p> <p>Titles:</p> <p>Date:</p>	<p>Read the newspapers for 5 days in a week</p> <p>Date:</p>

Tips for the COVID edition:

- Even if you don't want to visit the physical library, you can find many interesting ebooks and audio books to borrow from NLB using the OverDrive app you can download onto your phone or tablet.
- Find a partner(s) to do this with and share your progress.