



**ACADEMY OF PRINCIPALS (SINGAPORE)**  
*Leading the Profession to New Heights*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**Embargoed till 28 December 06, 4 pm**

### **New Principals Get Additional Support with Mentoring Scheme**

Singapore, 28 December 2006 – In collaboration with the Ministry of Education, the Academy of Principals will be piloting in March 2007 a one-year mentoring scheme for principals newly appointed in 2006. Under this scheme, new principals will have the opportunity to learn from and establish close rapport with experienced principals, benefiting from professional as well as psychological support during their first year in office.

The mentoring scheme is designed such that new principals will be given the choice to work with their preferred mentors; and the mentor-mentee pairing is free to determine the partnership model, including the frequency and form of interaction between the parties. Mrs Belinda Charles, President of the Academy, explained, “Mentoring can play a significant role in leadership development but it requires mutual trust and commitment from both the mentor and the mentee. We believe that the flexibility and diversity of the self-chosen relationships will reap emotional depth and richness.”

The mentoring scheme will serve to complement current support structures such as the school cluster system by providing additional avenues and opportunities for principals’ development. It will also enhance the quality and professionalism of the principal community, with the school leaders taking ownership for grooming their peers, facilitating an active transfer of valued tacit knowledge of school management.

The Academy of Principals (Singapore) is the professional body for the continuous development and enhancement of the professional status of school leaders. The

Academy offers professional development programmes; arranges sabbaticals and study visits; engages in research projects; and collaborates with strategic international and local partners to promote excellence in educational leadership.

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