

AIMS NEWSLETTER

The Fortnightly Community Newsletter of the Australian International School Malaysia

Main

Senior

Middle

Junior

Performing Arts

Sport

Parent Assoc.

Others



Principals' Message

Our hearts go out to those affected by the tragic events in Christchurch earlier this week. Our sympathy goes out to any members of the AISM community affected by this disaster.



The parent information evening held on Tuesday was well attended and we believe that our objectives for the event were well met. Our purpose for this meeting was to set the foundations for a year of productive parent teacher collaboration to ensure that every student at our school has a happy and successful year at AISM. At the meeting we took the opportunity to launch our parent communication improvement project. This project will involve a variety of consultative practices to examine preferred methods, timing and content of school to parent communications. We urge you to get involved in this project that is being led by our Marketing and Communications team.



We are continuing with a number of small scale projects and initiatives to improve student life around the school, for example the fabric type and cut of our school uniform is being modernized, new sports uniforms are being purchased, a self-service salad bar has been added to the daily offering at the canteen, several sporting sides have entered competitions.

The most important person you need to communicate with is your child's class or homeroom teacher. If there is something that you are unsure of or if you have any issues, please go directly to the teacher.

To our students – You need to talk to your parents each day about school life and involve them in your successes and even the times when things go wrong.

Finally, we wish the 80 student competitors in the Kuala Lumpur International School Athletics event this weekend good luck and we look forward to seeing you in action when we visit the event on Saturday.

Diary

28th February 2011

- Class Parent Meeting, 2.10pm, Auditorium
- Junior School Chess Competition, Lunch Hour

2nd March 2011

- Middle School Assembly, 9.30am, Auditorium
- Junior School Assembly, 2.20pm, Auditorium

3rd March 2011

- Scholarship & Captains Morning Tea, 9.30am, Auditorium

4th March 2011

- Chinese New Year Assembly, 2.10pm, Auditorium

7th March 2011

- Junior School Art Competition

9th March 2011

- Senior School Assembly, 9.30am, Auditorium

11th March 2011

- Parent Association AGM Nominations, 9.00am, Auditorium

From the Senior School

Camp Meetings

Many thanks to the families who attended the camp meetings on Tuesday afternoon. By now all families should have received the brochure for their respective camps. Of course, there may be further questions so please feel free to contact the homeroom teachers.

Year 11 (Phuket)

Mr Warren (stevewarren@aism.edu.au)
Mr Thorpe (christopherthorpe@aism.edu.my)

Year 10 (Vietnam)

Mr Tyr-Egge (patricktyregge@aism.edu.my)
Mrs Warren (staceyneilsen@aism.edu.my)

Year 9 (Pahang)

Mr Kennedy (shaynekenedy@aism.edu.my)
Ms Gibson (mareegibson@aism.edu.my)

Wayne Wagner Encouragement Award

At last year's Speech Day there was a special award presented to Sam Leetham. Sadly, in the business of the day, the significance of this award was not recognised. The Wayne Wagner Encouragement Award has been kindly donated by Wayne's family as a memorial award. It was the family's request that the award should recognise effort and provide encouragement for a Year 11 student. Wayne was very involved with the senior students and it is fitting that his award should be focused on Year 11 and on encouragement.



At last Wednesday's Senior School Assembly, we re-presented the Wayne Wagner Encouragement Award to Sam and ensured that its significance was highlighted.

Ian Martineau
Head of Senior School

More than Just Academic Achievements for Year 11 Student, Petra Tang

Petra Tang (Year 11) came to AISM as one of our 2011 Scholarship winners. Not only is Petra strong academically but she is also involved in many activities outside the curriculum.



Petra recently took part in the South East Asia Forensics Tournament at ISKL and is a member of our World Scholars Cup team.

Petra has also been invited to attend the Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra music camp in the third week of March.

Petra is a very good example of making the most of your opportunities.

AISM Student Artwork Calendar For SALE at Admin Office!



The Parent Association has produced a beautiful 2011 calendar filled with the artwork of AISM students from all year levels.

It is available for sale in the Administration Office for **RM25 per calendar** or **RM40 for two** – what a bargain!

Middle School News

The Middle School is a network of activity where students are exchanging ideas, meeting new friends, interacting with teachers and establishing routines as well as organizational structures that will assist them to be successful in their student life at AISM. We must not underestimate the amount of energy this takes and therefore, I am anticipating you may have many children return home totally exhausted in the evenings. Take comfort in knowing this is very normal and as the term progresses this will improve.



In Week 6, there will be a Chinese New Year assembly. Parents and friends are most welcome. Students will be performing throughout the assembly and would love to see you there.

Our students will be participating in World Maths Day on Tuesday, 1st March to further enhance student learning. This involves students competing against other children from over 200 countries in mathematics. This competition will enhance and develop our student's mathematics skills.

In the past weeks, I have enjoyed collaborating with the Student Leadership team on presenting the Middle School assembly and in their involvement in the Ground Breaking Day. These students have been chosen to lead the Middle School and have commenced the year in an exemplary manner. I look forward to working with these fine students to support student led initiatives in 2011.

Parent information evening also occurred on Tuesday night. This was a most successful evening which provided further information on curriculum and student life matters including camps. If you were unable to attend I encourage you to contact your homeroom teachers for further clarification on matters concerning your child's education.

Camps

Camp forms have now been sent home to all



students. Please ensure that forms are returned to home group teachers by Friday, 25th February. School camps form part of the curriculum, therefore all students are required to attend.

Security

Whilst the majority of students have combination locks on their lockers, please be reminded that we require all students to have a 3 or 4 combination lock. Please ensure your child has a lock by February 25th. Locks are also available for purchase from the uniform shop.



Kylie Booker
Head of Middle School

University of NSW Competitions 2011

In our previous newsletter you would have found an application form for this year's UNSW competitions in Computer Skills, Science, Mathematics and English.

This is a reminder that the closing date for students to sign up is Monday, 28th February.

Please bring all forms and money to the office by this date to ensure inclusion for this year's competition. In preparation for the competitions, you can obtain on loan from the library, copies of previous papers.

Information is also available from the competition site www.eaa.unsw.edu.au/etc/icas/malaysia.

Gary Agg
UNSW Competitions Coordinator

From the Junior School

We have begun our Monday morning mini assemblies for children in Kinder to Year 2 so that we can present the Spot On certificates to students. The same mini assemblies take place on Friday mornings for students in Year 3 and 4. Parents are most welcome to come along to these mini assemblies.

This week the Junior School participated in the Ground Breaking Ceremony for the new building and I would like to congratulate our Junior School Captains, Tamika and James for their efforts in addressing the crowd. They did a remarkable job despite all the nerves.

Last week, our Junior School House Captains were elected and I congratulate all of those students who are taking up a new leadership role in the Junior School. I'm sure they will all be inspirational leaders at each of our carnivals and at all events that they are involved in.

Last Saturday, Mrs. Bal-Short worked with the Young Voices Choir in an intensive whole day workshop and I am told that they all sang beautifully and learnt four new songs. I would like to thank Mrs. Bal-Short for her efforts with the Young Voices as they go from strength to strength. Several parents and staff came along for the day and I would like to thank you for your support.

Last week, a number of children in Prep were absent from school due to illness and given it is the beginning of the year it is quite timely to remind everyone that if your child is sick, showing any symptoms of illness, please keep them at home. Giving your child medication to treat the symptoms such as Panadol, does not remove the potential risk of passing on the illness to other children.

I understand that there has been some confusion over the dates of the Junior School camp. The Junior School didn't change the timing of our camp as we feel term two is the best time for our students given their age and stage. The Junior School camp is in Term Two, not in Term One.

Damian Baynes, Head of Junior School

PARENT INFO:

Notes that have been sent home through your child,
 1. Whole Junior School : **Elmer the Elephant theatre show**
 2. Year's 2, 3 and 4 : **Chess Competition**
 3. Whole Junior School: **Art Competition**
 4. Year 4 : **Excursion to The Mines on Friday, 25th Feb 2011**

Announcement

JUNIOR SCHOOL RECEPTION

We are pleased to have a new staff member, **Ms. Sena**, who is managing the Junior school reception desk.

Therefore, all administrative matters pertaining to Junior School will be handled at the new reception by Ms Sena.

This will include the handling of late passes, leave requests, notes/forms returned, change of routine, early leaves, absentee notes, visitor forms, bus routine changes, parent tag request, car pickup card, car stickers, lunch ordering, scheduling appointments with Head of School or Junior School teachers, change of contact details, and parents wishing to pass messages to students.

AISM Young Voices Choir Camp



On Saturday 19th February, 30 young voices attended the annual kick-start Choir Camp at AISM. The day was action packed with fun singing activities, creative

drumming using chairs and sticks, swimming, lots of food and treats, and of course, singing.

The Choir began rehearsing four new songs for their repertoire and began preparations for their debut at the upcoming Chinese New Year Assembly.

It was a very successful day. A big thank you goes out to our parent helpers, Ms.



Thong, Ms. Pauro, Ms. Eden, Ms. Pei Shee and Ms. Yow and to our staff, Ms. Fearon, Ms Mather and Ben Mather for supervising the swimming activity.

Susan Bal-Short
Junior School Performing Arts

A Hive of Activities

Young Voices Choir, Senior Vocal Ensemble, AISM School Orchestra, Middle School Training Band, AISM Instrumental Music Academy, Senior Drama Production and Junior School Verse Speaking activities all took off over the past two weeks. WOW! Students and parents have really embraced the new ensembles and programs.

The annual Chinese New Year Assembly will be held on Friday, 4th March from 2.10 p.m. in the auditorium. I would like to invite all our parents and friends to come along and enjoy the performances that are currently being prepared by Miss Ping and her team of staff, parents and students to welcome in the Year of the Rabbit at AISM. This year, we will continue to raise funds for the Matilda Project in all the four cultural assemblies. Students are asked to bring a small donation in an 'Ang Pow' or red packet to be presented at the assembly.

Students practising for the Senior School Production



Mr. Jon Suffolk
Coordinator Performances and Events

From the Music Room

"Music is about communication, creativity, and cooperation, and, by studying music in school, students have the opportunity to build on these skills, enrich their lives, and experience the world from a new perspective." - Bill Clinton, former President, United States of America.

It certainly has been a busy week in the Music room. The Middle School Beginner Band members have been tested, selected, issued instruments and commenced their classes this week. There has been a lot of interest and I am pleased to say that all of the wind instruments have been allocated. Rehearsals will take place Tuesday afternoons. A small group of students who are unable to make it on Tuesday afternoons will also rehearse on Thursdays during lunch. Look forward to some cool sounds coming out of the music room in a few weeks.

The AISM Orchestra has rehearsed twice so far and has grown into a sizable group. I am thrilled with their progress and the students are excited about preparing music for upcoming performances. It is never too late to join if you wish to do so.

On the classroom front, students are also working at developing skills on instruments. Certain instruments such as guitars are available for weekend hire so that the student may practice and develop skills covered in class as well as play for enjoyment. To do this, students must see Mr. McCormick for an agreement which is to be signed by parents which will allow for weekend hire throughout the year.

Instrumental lessons with tutors are now up and running and going well. Any further enquiries regarding these lessons or anything else should be directed to me at malcolmmccormick@aism.edu.my.

Book Your Tickets for the 'Sound of Music' Musical Now!



All members of the school community can purchase tickets to see a performance of "The Sound of Music". This is a production from London's West End and is in celebration

of the 75th Anniversary of this much loved musical. It will be performed at Plenary Hall, Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre on Thursday, 23rd June commencing at 8.30 p.m.

If we can book 100 or more tickets we will be able to get the corporate price of RM150 per ticket (normal price is RM190). This is the cheapest priced ticket with the premium seats selling for RM590 per ticket.

Your child should have received a notice this week regarding this event. Please complete the booking form attached and send it with your payment to the administration office by Friday, 4th March.

Jon Suffolk
Coordinator Performances and Events

Australian International School Malaysia Storms KL Rugby Scene

Despite Australia's proud rugby heritage, until three weeks ago, the Australian International School had yet to explore the possibilities of a rugby programme. However, with the start of the new Australian academic year, AISM stormed onto the local KL rugby scene.



The platform for the launch was the French International School's Under 15 10's tournament on Saturday 12th March. The architects of the launch were the new school Principal Dave Kilpatrick, Sports Co-ordinator Phil Wilkins, new member of staff Marcus Coombes and parent Chris Orford.



With less than three weeks to mould a group of eager but very green 15 year olds into some kind of cohesive unit, the task for Coombes and Orford seemed almost insurmountable. The

AISM boys would be pitted against some of the best local rugby talent in KL, many with years of training and playing experience under their belts.

It was with some trepidation then that the coaching staff sent the AISM boys off to battle with so little understanding of the game and so few skills. Armed with no more than a three week crash course on the absolute basics, they went without expectations. The only goal of Coombes and Orford that day was to give the boys a taste of the game – to let them soak in the rugby experience. It proved to be a modest goal.

The first ten minutes of the first game left the boys completely shell shocked. Two tries down, they started to figure it all out and although the AISM boys didn't score, they



held the opposition scoreless for the remainder of the game. The second match saw the boys concede a try late to lose a second time but wiser still. The third match was the last of the preliminaries and saw AISM's first taste of victory! Cohesion was beginning to form and understanding arriving in waves. By the fourth game the AISM lads were on a roll and added a second notch to their victory belts.

Two wins and two losses for the launch of rugby at AISM! The boys were outstanding in their efforts and commitment. What they gave away in experience and skill, they made up for in sheer guts and determination and they made the coaching staff very proud.

The boys learnt a lot that day about rugby. They learnt that guts and effort often count as much as finesse and skill. They experienced the sting of defeat the thrill of success. They learnt the meaning of camaraderie. They learnt to co-operate to achieve a common goal and indeed, they started to absorb the very essence of competitive rugby.....the game they play in heaven!

AISM rugby has arrived in KL. Watch out!

For further information or to make contact with AISM coaching staff, email **Chris Orford - orf@orftrans.com.au**

Chris Orford

A Night at the Races

Last Friday night, 13 students from AISM took part in an athletics night dubbed "A Night at the Races" organized by ISAKL at Bukit Jalil Stadium, Kuala Lumpur. This event is an excellent preparatory ground before the ISAKL event on the 26th of February. It helped some of our students shake off their "cobwebs" and race against other schools.



Our students put up a terrific performance that night, but Mitch Booker definitely stood out. He was paced by Mr. G and ran his personal best for the 1500m in 4.35, leading the field by the straight. Amin Ghaleia and Brenna Maconaghie also deserve a mention, finishing their first 1500m in fine form.

The relays were equally exciting, with Hay Li Tan, Amirah Rahman and Brenna Maconaghie making some great changes in their 4 x 100m. The boys had 2 teams with Mark de Vries, Jack Miller, Safwan Sulaiman, Anis Hassan, Josh Edmondson, Law Sian Jian, Mitch Booker and Alex McLaws. Alex followed up his relay by jumping into 4th spot in the high jump.



The night ended early due to thunder storms, but the real lightning of the night was indeed seen on the tracks from our young superstars. I look forward to witnessing their stellar performance this Saturday at the ISAKL interschool athletics.

Mr. Gallagher
Senior School

AIMS Badminton team win Gold, Silver & Bronze Medals in Under 18 tournament at Kolej Tuanku Ja'afar

On Saturday 19th of February, AISM sent 8 boys and 4 girls to Kolej Tuanku Ja'afar (KTJ) in Negeri Sembilan for the KTJ (U-18) Badminton Tournament. Four schools participated in the tournament.



Our girls team did us proud by winning 2 medals in the under 18 Badminton Tournament. In the individual competition, Emily Wong (10W) won the Gold medal. The girls team won the Silver medal for both the team and the girls' doubles competitions.



The boys team won the Bronze medal for both the team and the boys' doubles competitions.

They left KTJ at 4.30 pm after the prize-giving ceremony. Everybody had a chance to play and enjoyed the tournament.

**Saufi Kasim
Badminton
ASA**



AIMS Badminton Academy

What a great start! Thank you for attending the Free Badminton Clinic last Saturday. The attendance was great with 20 students turning up that afternoon!



For those who have never played badminton before, they had their first experience holding a badminton racquet and hitting a shuttlecock. For those who have played before, they had the coaches correcting or improving their techniques. Everyone had the opportunity to play.



The academy will run as an After School Activities (ASA). Due to AISM holidays, there will be no sessions in the last week of term. If you would like to join the academy but haven't signed up yet, please get the registration form from Cikgu Kasim.

There will be another Free Badminton Clinic as detailed below:

Date: **Saturday, 26th February 2011**
Time: **11.00 am to 1.00 pm**
Venue: **Gymnasium**

Bring your rackets and get ready to play! Just turn up at the school gym. All students are welcome!

After School Activities

New opportunities regarding Thursday Soccer...

We are pleased to announce that we can confirm the appointment of additional coaches to the Junior/Middle Soccer ASA on Thursdays, effective this week. This is being implemented so that a greater number of students can participate in this activity with a view to preparing them for future competition both in and outside of the school community. Students enrolled in this activity will be divided into age groups to work on developing specific skills toward creating school soccer teams. To begin with there will be opportunities to create U10, U12 & U14 boys teams, with girls teams being formed later in the year.

It should be noted that students who cannot make the Thursday Soccer ASA will still have opportunities to join the school teams when the formal school competition commences. More information about the Under 10,12 and 14 competition will be made available shortly.

For further information on this matter please feel welcome to contact me, ***stevenwarren@aism.edu.my***.

Steve Warren, 2011 After School Activities Coordinator

AISM participates in Alice Smith Invitational Under-13 Football

On Sunday, 13th of February, 14 of our students went to Alice Smith School for the 7-A-side Boys U13 Soccer Tournament. As they played their first match at 8.00 am, they were rather nervous as it was their first time playing together as a team. It was their 3rd week of school and they only had one training session. But indeed they had talent!

As the tournament progressed, they became more confident and were playing more as a team with great passes at the front to score goals as well as good defending at the back and in the midfield. Overall, we came 5th out of 6 schools. Everyone had a chance to play and enjoyed the game.

Soccer Squad : Alika (Captain), Sprite (Vice Captain 1), Liam (Vice Captain 2), Callum, Lawrence, Jason, Bryan, Wei Hann, Jeremy, Robert, Praveen, Rehhahn, Jacobson, Zarak

Saufi Kasim
Teacher

AISM Students Are Amongst the Top at ISAKL Triathlon

On Saturday the 12th of February 2010, AISM students competed in an interschool triathlon at the Alice Smith school.

All students gave their best and demonstrated the determination needed to complete a triathlon. Congratulations to Tamika Baynes for finishing third in the Under 10 girls race and Thomas Leetham who finished 4th in the Under 8 boys race. A great effort by all of our students!

Damian Baynes
Junior School



2011 HOUSE CAPTAINS

Junior	Boys	Girls
Freeman	Jeremy Bartley (C)	Kiana Baynes (C)
	Leonaka Choo (VC)	Nadia Shahrir (VC)
Sauvage	Macauley Robertson (C)	Minji Park (C)
	Aameet Ekram (VC)	Hannah Orford (VC)
Thorpe	Fareed Ashrar (C)	Balqis Badlisyah (C)
	Leonardo Langridge (VC)	Cassandra Koumouris (VC)
Rafter	Luke Grover (C)	Regina Kewo (C)
	AiryI Shazi (VC)	Aoi Kando (VC)
Middle	Boys	Girls
Freeman	Henry Baynes(C)	Bridget Kong(C)
	Kien Ming Choo(VC)	Jenny Choi(VC)
Sauvage	Gabriel Robertson (C)	Nicole Pearsall (C)
	Jarrad Williams (VC)	Aishah Kenton (VC)
Thorpe	Bryan de Vries (C)	Nelly Mbanjwa (C)
	Dominic Robertson (VC)	Atsuko Sunaga (VC)
Rafter	Shaun Chew (C)	Isabelle Breen (C)
	Ford Sutcliff (VC)	Jessabelle Breen (VC)
Senior	Boys	Girls
Freeman	Nazeer Shahrir(C)	Stephanie Woon(C)
	Kenny Lim(VC)	Kimberely Chiam(VC)
Sauvage	Mitchell Booker (C)	Hay Li Tan (C)
	Safwan Sulaiman (VC)	Sofia Hanim (VC)
Thorpe	Mark de Vries (C)	Nik Azmin (C)
	Chia Yang (VC)	Krystiana Mansukhani (VC)
Rafter	Abe Ranner (C)	Bella Head Gray (C)
	Emmanuel Tan (VC)	Joanne Tay (VC)

News from the Parent Association

The first AISM Parent Association meeting for 2011 was held on the 11th February. It was very well attended, with many new faces joining us.

Jane Bartley provided us with news about Recycle for Ringgit – an ongoing project from 2010. As advertised in the previous newsletter, a recycle bin is located close to Mrs Mac's (school nurse) office. The PA will earn money from any items of clothing/bags/belts/shoes/linen that are placed in the bin.

Robyn Pettingill gave us an update on projects that the PA has pledged money towards and also got us thinking about the Mother's Day stall for this year.

Phil Wilkins (School Sports Coordinator) gave us an insight into the sport programme planned for this year – many new happenings and as parents he urged us to get behind our kids and provide support for them when it comes to training and competitions.

We were introduced to the Marketing and Communications team led by Shamini, with Michelle McQuinn (an ex-AISM parent) in a new role as the Communications Officer. Any thoughts or suggestions concerning communications between school and home should be forwarded to the marketing department.

Wendy Gardiner gave us an update on plans for the new development which would commence soon. Safety of our children during the construction period is paramount. Some of the upcoming changes and plans for the school were discussed with the principal, David Kilpatrick.

There was also a discussion about the vision and activity of the Parent's Association. It was agreed that we continue to run the events that we have done so in previous years but equally important is our role as a forum and support network for parents.

Our planned events for the year will be:

Meet and Greet Cocktail Party – already held on 31st January

Mother's Day Stall – Thursday 5th May

Father's Day Breakfast – Friday 17th June (Malaysian Father's Day 19th June)

Trivia Night – Saturday 10th September

Family Fun Day – Sunday 12th November

These dates can be found on the school calendar. Reminders will be sent out prior to events as well as a call for volunteers to help stage each event.

Last but not least, the PA Annual General Meeting will be held on Friday 11th March. We will be looking for office bearers at this meeting as most of our positions are currently vacant. Nomination forms will be sent out prior to the meeting. Hope to see all of you there!

Leanne Robertson
Vice President AISM Parent's Association

Parent Association On the Look Out for Link Ladies (or Man!)

We are looking for anyone who is interested in becoming a "Link Lady (or Man)" in their respective areas (Ampang, Gita Bayu, Mont Kiara, KiaraPark.TTDI/Sec. 16, Bangsar, Damansara, Subang, Taman Desa/Seputeh, Country Heights/IOI Resort.

These people would be key contact points for new parents who are considering and have decided to send their children to AISM. They will be the point of contact for new parents for information about the area they live in, transport, locations of shops and other valuable information that can only be gained from first-hand experience. If you are interested, please contact me **Leanne Robertson** at **burwellman@hotmail.com.au**

Join Us for the Mothers Day Stall Meeting

Although it is still a few months away, it is time to start planning for this hugely popular school event which is now in its fourth year running.



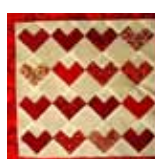
I would like to invite anyone who is interested to come along and help with the planning of this year's event.

Date: **Tuesday, 1st March 2011**

Time: **9.00 am**

Venue: **F8**

Regards, **Robyn Pettingill**



Parent Craft Group

All Parents Are Welcome!

Parents are invited to come together to share your skills in various crafts such as sewing, card and jewellery making. The Parent Craft Group work on both our own projects and group projects and is a great way to meet other parents in the school.

Date: Wednesday, 2nd March 2011

Time: 9.00 am – 11.00 am

Venue: Junior Art Room, C12

Middle School assembly is also on the same day and if you just want to drop in after assembly you are most welcome as well. A simple morning tea will be available. If you are interested, contact me at **redrelp@streamyx.com** or **017 673 4808** or just come along. We'd love to see you there. The subsequent dates for the Parent Craft Group are the 16th and 30th of March.

Robyn Pettingill

Building Developments Ground Breaking Ceremony

Tuesday, Feb 22nd 2011

- The ground breaking ceremony for the new building developments in the school was a momentous occasion witnessed by Board of Governors of Taylors Education Group, representatives from Bluwater Estate and the school. The Junior



School students and all school captains joined the ceremony which kicked off at 10.00 am.

The event started with Tamika Baynes, Junior School Girl Captain welcoming the guests and delivering a commendable speech. This was followed by a short speech from our Principal and Damian Baynes, Head of Junior School orchestrating the ground breaking ceremony. The school captains accompanied Dato' Loy Teik Ngan (Group Chief Executive Officer of Taylor's Education Group), Mr. BK Gan (President of School Division) and our Principal in the act of shovelling while the Junior School students sang the AISM School Song in full gusto.

The event ended with a group photograph of all the students and guests as well as a concluding speech by the Junior School Boy Captain, James Lambert.



Guests, students and some parents who came to witness the historic event went home with feelings of excitement and anticipation over the developments that will take place in the school.

This event marks yet another milestone in AISM's sustained growth over the years. The Building Developments will involve the construction of a custom-built Junior School, a new car park, refurbishment of the administration block, a state-of-the-art performing arts centre with black box theater, dance and music practice rooms as well as an extensive information resource centre. It will accommodate 21st Century learning designs with new, open spaces and integration of technology. The new building developments will allow for significant growth in the school population.

Great Turnout at the Parent Information Evening!

Tuesday, Feb 22nd 2011 – It was great to see a great turnout for the Parent Information Evening which was held from 4.15 – 6.45 pm. The evening started with parents filling out a Parent Communications Survey form in the auditorium foyer before proceeding to an afternoon tea. In the background, the photos of the Ground Breaking Ceremony which happened on the same day were featured along with the plans for the Building Developments in the school.

The Principal and Assistant Principal addressed the crowd before parents dispersed to different locations according to schools for more specific information about the curriculum, camp and other information.



Information Resource Centre News

IPad & IPod touch

Students are enjoying reading EBooks on these devices purchased from the 2010 Read-a-Thon funds.



Books for sale!

This year the Scholastic Book Club is being replaced by a quality but affordable book stall each term. More about this later.

Book Donations

Thank you to Marcus Ho, 3G for all the wonderful books.

Coming soon!

Poetry Week (Week 9A)

"Celebrating Forests for People"

Special guest - British poet/author Chris White

Denise Miller
IRC Coordinator

Life in Asrama Desa Pukak *The Matilda Project*

Over the Christmas break last year, Denise Miller and I were fortunate to have the opportunity to volunteer at the Asrama Desa Pukak Hostel in Sabah. We had a wonderful six day visit and came away enriched and enlightened.



Our goal was to create a more concrete plan for AISM's involvement in the Sabah community in 2011 and have a more hands-on approach for our students and staff.



The Matilda project this year aims to support and raise funds for the education of 30 primary aged students who live in the remote

Pukak area of Sabah. The funds collected will enable them to access the local school on a regular basis. During our stay, we were able to experience their lifestyle first hand. We started with a hike to the nearest kampong. We staggered the hour and a half walk to Kampung Liposu. It took us nearly 3 hours !!! The children acted as our guides and saved us with cooling fans made from vegetation and shoulder massages.



At the hostel, we rolled up our sleeves and mucked in with the daily chores, did a spot of interior decorating, waged a war with a rat family as well as played and chatted with the children. They are truly amazing little people... despite the fact that they have a tough life and live below the poverty line they are always smiling and full of beam.



The youngest student is Melly, in Year One who loves to giggle with her friends and draw pictures. Mark, the oldest, is very serious about his studies and helps organise the younger ones in the morning . He loves playing the guitar.

Our very own Miss Mag Tan Siew Hwa, who is a shadow teacher for Year 2G stayed at the hostel for 3 weeks and worked alongside Dora, the housemother who manages the daily needs of the 30 children. Mag's insights and translations were invaluable and allowed us to adapt quickly to the hostel routines and culture.



Besides volunteering at the hostel we taught a few English lessons at the local school and travelled with the mobile Rural Training team to another

kampong and worked on their community project.

It was a wonderful opportunity for active service and self-reflection. Both Denise and I came away humbled by the experience.

It is a truly worthwhile project and I am sure our partnership will grow and strengthen. Our students will have the opportunity to get involved in meaningful service learning and develop a sense of social responsibility. For those who wish to support this fundraising project either individually or in a group, please take the opportunity to sponsor a child (RM 2,300 p.a.) or make a donation. On the left is a thank you card from all of the children at Pukak Hostel.

Sheila Martineau



Editor's Note

To provide feedback about the AISM Newsletter, please email: marketing@aism.edu.my



AIMS
AUSTRALIAN
INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
MALAYSIA

Matilda Project

**Helping rural children of Sabah
access primary education**



Sponsor the education of 30 children who are housed at Asrama Desa Pukak, Sabah and live below the poverty line in remote, rural villages of Sabah. These children stay at the hostel to be able to attend school on a regular basis, instead of walking two and half hours over a hilly terrain to get to their school, SK Pukak.

Be an **INDIVIDUAL** or **GROUP SPONSOR** for a child's education which costs RM 2,300 per annum. *Tax exemptions receipt will be given for donations.*

How to Sponsor?

Donations can be made to the Administration Office either by cash or cheque payable to "Australian International School Sdn Bhd" or direct transfer into our Alliance Bank Malaysia Bhd account 12136-0-01-000600-4, Swift Code: MFBBMYKL (for overseas transaction).

(Important: Please write down "Matilda Project" behind the cheque or as a note to the transaction and fax / email the payment slip to 03-8948 4522 with your name written clearly).

For more information, contact Shamini (Marketing) at 03-89430622 or email marketing@aism.edu.my.

