

AIMS NEWSLETTER

The Fortnightly Community Newsletter of the Australian International School Malaysia

Main

Senior

Middle

Junior

Performing Arts

Sports

Others



Principal's Message

We have witnessed a great start to the year. Our students are very enthusiastic about their learning and co-curricular activities. New students to the school have told me that the settling in experience was made easy by the natural generosity of students in welcoming and supporting each other during the first few weeks.

Earlier this week, I was talking to a new student in Year 8 who has transferred to our school from another school in Kuala Lumpur. I asked him about his first impression of our school. He told me that he was surprised how quickly he was included into the activities and friendship circles at the school. He told me that he felt at home after the first day and stated that this never could have happened at his previous school.

It's these personal stories from students that remind me that we do have something special and unique at our school.

The whole school team building day held this week provided opportunities for our students to meet and work with a range of students across the year groups. I am told that our senior leaders were very impressive in the way they led the team building day. One student, during the day, a girl from Year 7, dropped by my office to introduce her new 'buddy' from Year 2, another great example of the priority our students place on maintaining our strong community.

Currently we are looking for every opportunity to provide authentic leadership activities for all students. Another concept you will be hearing about from us this year is the concept of 'followership'; i.e., the ability to work collectively to achieve great things, to be committed to the group objectives and to be prepared to follow the lead of the group.

We have seen a lot of outstanding leadership and 'followership' during the first few weeks of school. I hope to hear more personal stories from our students as the year progresses.

David Kilpatrick, Principal

Diary

(Note that sports events diary can be found on page 6 of this newsletter and also on our webpage under School Calendar & Events)

Saturday, 18th February 2012

- Junior School Choir Camp, AISM

Wednesday, 22nd February 2012

- USA Education Fair, 6.00pm - 9.30pm, Hilton Kuala Lumpur

Thursday, 23rd February 2012

- Chinese New Year Celebration - Lion Dancer's Visit, AISM

Friday, 24th February 2012

- World Scholars Cup Debate Camp, AISM
- Barracuda Swimming Club Night, 3.30pm - 5.50pm, AISM

Friday, 2nd March 2012

- Middle & Senior School Assembly, 9.00am, Auditorium
- Junior School Assembly, 2.20pm, Auditorium
- International Award Practice Camp

Saturday, 3rd March 2012

- International Award Practice Camp

Saturday, 10th March 2012

- TNT KLASSTriathlon 2012, 7.00am, Alice Smith School Equine Park Campus

Saturday, 17th March 2012

- Parent Association's Twilight Fair, 5.30pm, AISM

Senior School News

Assembly

This year, by not having assemblies built into the timetable, we will have more time for academics. Assemblies will be held as and when necessary. Our first assembly of the year will be combined with the Middle School and will take place during Period 1 (9.00-9.50am) on Friday of Week 5 (2nd March). At this assembly we will hold the changeover for the Student Representative Council (SRC).

Uniform

At the start of the year it is worth reminding students and families of our uniform requirements. As students move through the Senior School they are developing from young adolescents to young adults. With this development comes the move to independence and responsibility. Exploring the 'boundaries' is part of that growth and pushing the uniform boundaries is common; particularly in Year 9 and Year 10. By Year 11 most students recognise that time spent on worrying about uniform is time that can be used more profitably.

A number of students have returned to school with footwear that does not fit the school's description of appropriate shoes. Shoes should be completely black and polishable. Sneaker style shoes (particularly with coloured logos) are not acceptable, nor are the ballet style slippers that some girls have chosen to wear. If you are considering new school shoes for your son or daughter, please make sure that you purchase a pair that fit the uniform guidelines. More about uniform later!

Student Planners

Sadly the delivery of student planners for the Senior School has been delayed. When they were not delivered with the rest of the stationery, we were promised that they would arrive on Thursday of Week 1. We have now been promised that they will arrive this week. Watch this space!

All students should have received a basic stationery pack. This was compiled using indications from staff as to what they believed students needed for their particular subjects. Several students have changed subjects so now have slightly different requirements. Most have already collected additional items. We have stock of most items so any student who genuinely requires additional stationery should visit the HOS office on D level and ask Ms Salina.

Ian Martineau,
Head of Senior School

Mr B's Careers Corner

Study in Canada

On Monday 13th February AISM was visited by a representative from The University of British Columbia (UBC) in Canada. We were very pleased to welcome Ms. Vicky Chen to the school and she spoke to a group of interested Senior School students during their lunch break.

UBC is one of the largest public research universities in Canada with 32,000 students at their Vancouver campus and around 6,500 at their Okanagan campus. UBC is also ranked as one of the top 50 universities in the world. Canada is becoming a very popular destination for international students due to their high standard of living, internationally recognised degrees and very competitive tuition fees.

If you would like to know more about UBC, check out their website: connectionsforlife.ubc.ca or for more general information about Canada at studycanada.ca.

Study in the USA

Please note that there is a USA education fair on Wednesday 22nd February at the Hilton Kuala Lumpur 6.00pm - 9.30pm. This is highly recommended for students and parents interested in colleges in America.

Warm regards,

Chris Broadbent,
Careers and Pathways Coordinator

Middle School News

We have had an excellent start to middle schooling in 2012. As a middle school staff we are busily preparing for the Year level camps later in this term and preparing students for the year of rich and diverse learning experiences ahead. I am also pleased to report the new students have settled in extremely well and we look forward to seeing them involved in school events as the year progresses.

Communication

Whilst the first communication arm should be through the home room teacher I am always more than happy to discuss your child's learning and progress. Please do not hesitate to contact me on ***kyliebooker@aism.edu.my***.

Curriculum

Classes including language electives and outdoor education have all settled now and we are looking forward to a productive term ahead. On studywiz all Year levels in the middle school have their term overview for all subjects published as well as a homework timetable. Students in the middle school can also access mathematics remotely where they can work through their personal levels set by their respective teachers.

Student Organization Program

This year we have implemented a student organization program for all middle school students. We recognise that the transition from Junior to Middle schooling can be challenging. To support our students they have all been given colour coded folders to match appropriate curriculum areas. The students have been given time to set their folders up to include all the materials they need for that particular subject. This aids students in selecting appropriate materials for each lesson. You will no doubt see different colour folders coming home.

Lockers

Could you please ensure your child has a combination lock on their locker by the end of Week 4? I am pleased that the majority of students have been using a lock already.

Sport, Sport Trials and ASA

Whilst we are not all sporting champions I wish to congratulate all of the middle school students who have participated in sports trials in the past few weeks. Whilst some students missed out on being selected for teams it indicated to me what a strong spirit of participation we have amongst our students. Because of the increased interest and participation in sport, we are now looking at ways to ensure that all students, regardless of ability or experience can play team sports.

Kylie Booker,
Head of Middle School

Co-Curricular Program

Activities in our Co-Curricular Program have commenced

Please remember to come on time and bring the appropriate attire/equipment for your activities. If you have questions about your enrolment, please contact Mr. Warren by email:
stevenwarren@aism.edu.my

You can only go to activities that you are officially enrolled in. If you would like to make changes to your enrolment, you can do this in Week 4.

If you are not participating in an after school activity, you need to organise transport home at 3.20pm.

Invoices for those programs that incur a cost will be sent home early next week. Payment is required by Friday, 24th February 2012.

Rock Climbing students

You will travel to and from the venue by the school van. It is expected that you will return to school at approximately 5.30pm. Please organise your own pick up from school at this time.

Steven Warren
Co-Curricular Program Coordinator

Junior School News

On Friday our Year 4 students attended an interschool sport and team building day at Nexus International School. This day was organised as a way of building interschool sport and getting to know students from other Taylors schools. Students from Garden, Sri Garden, Nexus Putrajaya and Nexus Singapore were in attendance. This is the first of hopefully a number of interschool sporting and academic events between the Taylors schools for our Junior School students.

Some parents have asked me about getting involved in the classrooms and helping out on some mornings and I would like to suggest that if you are willing to help out in the classroom please make contact with the class teacher to best determine how you can be of assistance to the teacher and the learning programme.

Each class has a lunch tub for children to put their lunch boxes in at the end of recess and lunch and this system seems to be working well for keeping the eating area tidy and keeping track of students belongings, however when I checked a couple of lunch boxes today I found they weren't labelled. So as a little reminder to parents, could you please make sure all of your child's belongings are labelled so that we can return misplaced items to their rightful owners.

Your children should be well settled into the new year and establishing their daily routines and now is the time to talk to teachers should you have any questions or queries about what is happening in the classroom. Please don't hesitate to make contact with class teachers if this is the case.

Damian Baynes, Head of Junior School

Information Resource Centre News

This year is the Australian National Year of Reading which was launched on February 14th. The theme is "Love 2 Read". This was instigated by Australian libraries and library associations.

One of the main goals is to encourage people to understand the benefits of reading as a life skill and also to create a reading culture in every home.

The following site has lots of interesting information about books and reading.

<http://www.love2read.org.au/index.cfm>

Denise Miller, IRC Coordinator



Message from Mrs Mac

Hats / Sun Screen

Malaysia is a hot country, therefore when you go out in the hot sun you should use precautions to keep yourself and your loved ones safe. The exposure children receive while young increases their risk of developing skin cancer when they are adults. One of the best ways to prevent skin cancer is to wear a hat and apply sun screen SPF30, broad spectrum and water resistant. At AISM we sell hats with a wide brim and legionnaire hats. Both provide excellent coverage from the sun's harsh rays.



Students are encouraged to wear hats when they have outdoor activities. One way parents can help is to make sure that the hat is inside the bag before school. Another hat can be left in the locker. Sun screen can be applied before school for younger students and for those in Middle and Senior School they can apply themselves 20mins before outdoor sports.

Some students have an allergic reaction to sunscreen so it is best that parents try a skin test at home before sending the sun screen to school in the school bag. It is always best to label the hat and the tube of sunscreen with your child's name and class.

Also important is that drink bottle-to keep them well hydrated at school.

Denise MacFarlane, School Nurse

Performing Arts News



FOBISSEA DRAMA FESTIVAL 2012 "New Beginnings"

To begin the new year, eight students attended the FOBISSEA DRAMA FESTIVAL 2012 at Garden International School on the 3rd, 4th and 5th February. This acronym stands for the Federation of British International Schools in South East Asia.

We were fortunate to be able to join this Festival due to our networking relationship with Garden International School. At the Festival students from Garden International School, Tenby International School, AISM, St Josephs (Rayong Thailand) and St Josephs (Bangkok) explored the theme "New Beginnings" and developed performance works based on skills they developed in workshops and playbuilding activities throughout the three days of the festival. The first activity was an excursion to the Selangor Pewter Centre where everyone had the opportunity to create their own pewter bowl in the "School of Hard Knock" workshop. This was the 'icebreaker' for the festival and its theme of 'New Beginnings'.

It was fantastic to see the enthusiasm that AISM students showed in participating in all the workshops and activities, and the friendships that they made during the three days. One of the highlights for them was the Gala Dinner held on the Saturday night at the Boulevard Hotel. Everyone was treated to a fantastic buffet followed by some groovy moves on the dance floor at the disco that followed. The following day they all returned to Garden to finalise and polish their performances for the large audience of parents and friends who came along to watch.

I would like to congratulate Sarah Adams, Isabelle Breen, Jessebelle Breen, Zakary Pietsch, Jessica Miller, Ben Christy, Madyson Pietsch and Nicole Pearsal for attending the festival and representing AISM.

Performing Arts Co-Curricular Activities

This week the Co-Curricular Program commenced for the year. Students who have signed up for the Performing Arts Activities are encouraged to be on time for all activity sessions/ rehearsals and if home practice is required ensure that they are doing this on a regular basis.

There is always the opportunity for students to join any of the groups. Please come and see the Performing Arts teachers if you would like to do so.

Jon Suffolk,
Coordinator Performances and Events

From the Music Room

Welcome to another busy year in Middle and Senior School Music. You will note some changes to the program here. The AISM Band will now practice on Friday morning and all players of wind and percussion with over 1 year experience are welcome to join. The AISM Orchestra has now moved back to Thursday. We also have a new Jazz/Rock ensemble starting Wednesday afternoons for students from Years 8 – 12. Please see Mr McCormick if you have any questions regarding the Music ASA program.



Year 5 Band Program

The exciting and new Year 5 Band Program is nearly ready to start. All students in Year 5 have been tested on wind instruments and are ready to be allocated an instrument based on personal choice and aptitude on the instrument chosen. Once this instrument has been chosen a letter and contract for the loan will be sent home. When the fee has been paid the instrument will then be allocated to your son/daughter for their exclusive use. Students playing percussion or the bass guitar will not be charged a fee. Please address any issues regarding instrumental choice or fees to Mr McCormick as soon as possible so that these issues can be taken into account when allocating instruments.

AISM Instrumental Music Academy

Lessons on strings, guitar, drums and wind will continue again this year. Due to the building improvements we will now room lessons in the auditorium and B1. Please check on where lessons will take place. If your son/daughter is taking lessons they must fill in the application form to register. This also includes continuing students. It is important to monitor attendance and have details of each student for administrative reasons. Application forms are available from Mr McCormick, Junior reception, Studywiz and also on the website under "School Calendar and Events"

Malcolm McCormick, Music Teacher

Senior Basketball Boys Win ISAC Finals!



On Saturday 11th February 2012, AISM played host to the Open Age Group Boys Division 3 ISAC Basketball Finals Series. This was a great tournament featuring teams from ISKL, MKIS, Nexus and AISM. In Term 4 2011 a round robin competition was held over a number of weeks and the teams in the division placed on a ladder according to their performance. AISM went through this competition undefeated and therefore went into the finals series ranked number one. In the semi-final therefore, AISM played the fourth-place team, ISKL. MKIS (2nd) played Nexus (3rd) in the other semi-final.

AISM convincingly won the semi-final Vs ISKL and progressed to the Grand Final. Second-ranked MKIS did not fare as well in the other semi-final, going down in an upset to Nexus. This upset was largely brought about through the skill of Nexus' 6 foot 5 inch centre. That win set up a final meeting between the two Taylor's schools, AISM and Nexus.

In the final, Nexus came out firing and demonstrated excellent skills in defence, restricting AISM to their smallest first quarter score of the season. However, AISM's big men (Nathan, Josh E, Bazil and Boramy) led the way throughout the first half, dominating the taller opposition player (Nexus' 6'5" Star - Jack). This constant pressure eventually told and AISM then ran away with the game. As the score began to blow-out, there was an opportunity for each of the squad members to play a role. Controlling the point at various times were Santiago, Josh T and Tom, shooting and linking were Callum, Alex, Mitch, Darren and Ethan. All of the boys performed to an exceptional level and this amounted to an exceptional 36 to 6 victory in the championship game.

The boys received their gold medals in a presentation at the end of the day, which was undertaken in front of an excellent crowd of students, parents, friends and teachers. Star performers on the day were Captain Santiago, Tom, Alex, Josh, Big Bad Baz and Nathan.

Well done, boys! You have made AISM convincing ISAC Basketball champions!

James Unsworth
Senior Boys Basketball Coach

Upcoming Sports Events

Saturday, 18th February 2012

- ISAC Softball, 8.00am - 12.00pm, ISKL

Wednesday, 22nd February 2012

- U13 Boys/Girls Soccer, 4.00pm, KLASS

Saturday, 25th February 2012

- U15 Girls Basketball, 9.00am, ISKL
- U13 Boys/Girls Soccer, 9.00am, KLASS

Wednesday, 29th February 2012

- U13/15 Boys Basketball, 4.00pm, AISM

Saturday, 3rd March 2012

- ISAC Track & Field, 7:30am, Bukit Jalil Training Stadium

AISM = Australian International School Malaysia
 NIS = Nexus International School
 ISKL = International School Kuala Lumpur
 GIS = Garden International School
 MIS = Mutiara International School
 RSC = Royal Selangor Club
 KLASS = Alice Smith School
 TIS = Tenby International School
 MKIS = Mont Kiara International School
 ISAC = International School Athletics Conference

Roos bound into 3rd place at LFKL 7's Tournament

The AISM Rugby Roos fielded a team brimming with youth and experience for the French school's (LFKL) annual 7's rugby tournament. This tournament is always a tough ask for our school as it is very early in our season with only a week's preparation time. Compounding on a lack of preparation was the fact that no one in the team had played 7's rugby before (7's rugby is a version of rugby where there are only seven players on each side). To the credit of the Roos, they did not let a lack of preparation impose on their enthusiasm. After five, 14 minute matches, the Roos added another piece of silverware to the trophy cabinet by taking home a hard fought third place.

From a coach's perspective the most pleasing result on the day was watching the team come together and apply the skills they had learnt from their first year of rugby last year. At times our depth was tested with the pace of the game taking its toll. This year we were fortunate enough to have members of our middle school rugby team stepping up into the senior team and becoming influential players. Congratulations to Dominic and Sprite for stepping up and getting their first cap in the Roos senior team.

Rugby is a game that teaches young men how to channel their energy into a collective effort. Sometimes that effort results in a loss and sometimes a win. Either way it is very character building and valuable lessons are learnt about teamwork and oneself.

Everyone displayed an impressive amount of determination on the day and the Roos thoroughly deserve their result. Any students interested in joining the AISM Rugby Roos rugby program should speak to Mr Coombes. Parents with any questions regarding the program can contact me directly or through the website.

Marcus Coombes
Head coach of Rugby
marcuscoombes@aism.edu.my

U13 Girls' Basketball

On Friday and Saturday, the Under 13 Girls' Basketball team consisting of Lynette, Jessie, Phoebe, Amelia, Zulaika, Clarita, Dua, Maddie and Ain travelled to ISKL to participate in an invitational carnival. Teams came from Singapore and Kuala Lumpur.

Our first match was against Mont Kiara who were limited by their inability to supply a full team. To give the girls a game we, therefore, provided two students from our team. AISM were victorious winning 10-0.

Saturday was a much more difficult day. We played the Singapore team and, though the scoreline did not reflect it, the girls played really strongly putting the emphasis on a tight zone defence. The final game was against ISKL and once again, we were defeated by a stronger team.

This is only the second outing for this team and as a result the students are still learning the rules of the game. There have been vast improvements in all of the girls' abilities but the standout for this carnival was Dua whose defence was extraordinary.

The students are to be congratulated for their sportsmanship and behaviour both of which were outstanding.

Judy Hurditch

Triathlon News

The first triathlon of the year is coming up. It will be held at Alice Smith International School Equine Park Campus on 10/3/12. Races will be held for Under 6 right through to Over 15. If you would like your child to participate in one of the world's fastest growing sports then please log onto the event's website at goo.gl/YB5HG. If you have any questions about the event please contact Mr Baynes at AISM.

Damian Baynes

Under 13 Boys Basketball

Last weekend our Under 13 basketball team participated in a carnival at ISKL. Whilst the boys didn't win a game they played extremely well in a very tough competition. Given the team has only just come together they managed to play as a team and put several of the other teams under pressure. We look forward to future games and I'm sure our first win is only just around the corner. Our team captain, Naufal Shahrir, played extremely well and was named best on court.

Damian Baynes

Cultural Assemblies

Cultural celebrations that recognize the significant events in the calendars of the nations represented by many of our students, such as the Australia Day Assembly (when school has started) Chinese New Year, Hari Raya and Deepavali are an important and long standing tradition at AISM.

However, as with many traditions, these celebrations have evolved and expanded over the years. Each year the profile has increased, and with it the amount of time and effort required by a few to prepare for the celebrations. Last year saw many students missing classes for a number of weeks to rehearse their part in what had become significant productions.



With our focus this year on academic rigour and improving student learning outcomes, we have thought long and hard about the interruptions to class time. How can we maintain the important traditions without compromising teaching and learning?

Given that Chinese New Year was actually celebrated before school returned, thus allowing little time for preparation, it seemed a good opportunity to approach this event in a different way.

On Thursday 23rd February the Lion Dance Group that has attended our ceremony for a number of years will come to school. The Lion Dance Group will arrive at school prior to lunchtime and visit the Junior School. At lunchtime they will perform beside the cafeteria for all to see and they will also bless the Office as is customary. As part of the celebration, related class activities will be conducted by teachers on the day and during the week.



Through this approach we can continue to recognise and value the importance of Chinese New Year, without having a number of students missing classes for rehearsals at this important time of establishing the learning patterns for the year ahead.

We will be very interested to hear your feedback about the idea and the effectiveness of the actual event. This will provide us with useful information when planning Hari Raya, Deepavali and Christmas celebrations.

Whatever the outcome of this feedback, we still intend to run the International Day whole school activity which celebrates our Cultural Diversity in a fully inclusive manner.

Wendy Gardiner, Assistant Principal

Introduction of Student IDs

As you may know we recently issued AISM Student Identification Cards for all students in Year 5 to 12. The cards will initially be used for Library, Attendance Records and ICT loans. Additionally it allows students to identify themselves at external events outside the school. The card can also be used to obtain discounts at various stores and service providers in and around Kuala Lumpur.

Please note, should the card be lost, the school should be notified immediately and a fee will be levied for its replacement.

Charles Mutinda, IT Manager

2011 Yearbook

If you would like to purchase another copy of the yearbook, please put in an order at the Junior School Reception area.

Additional copies are **RM50** and order forms can be found at **reception**.

Joanna Nicholson



Parent Association Information

HOLD THE DATE

Saturday, March 17th, 5.30 pm because the Parent Association will once again organise the Twilight Night @ AISM Campus.

Details will follow soon.

**Leanne Robertson,
Parent Association President**