Welcome back to a new Semester. In particular we welcome new students, new families and a new School Counsellor, Mr Justin West, and a new Head of Mathematics, Ms Joanne Cooper. We also welcome back Mrs Katherine Kitching and Mrs Dionne Pereira from their maternity leave. While we are always sad to farewell colleagues and families at the end of the previous term, we are renewed by the freshness that is brought to us by new members of our community.

This Semester will be full and engaging, commencing with our International Day celebrations. As always we extend an invitation to families to join us at school to share in these festive and important occasions where we celebrate our unity in our diversity.

Parent Survey Results

Thank you to all the parents who contributed response to our 2015 Parent Survey. The Taylor’s Education Group CEO, Dato Loy, had set all schools a target of reaching 87% satisfaction ratings in all areas of operation. Typically an 80% satisfaction rating is considered to represent a well-functioning organisation. I am delighted to report that our overall Parent Satisfaction rating for 2015 is 88%. Despite this pleasing result, we will continue to seek improvements across all Departments at the School with the primary objective of improved outcomes for all students.

We had an impressive 44% response rate which is well above the typical 30% return rate in other schools. Please find over page a summary of the data that you provided to us noting the five key areas of greatest and least satisfaction. We have already made some improvements to the offerings of CCAs for Semester 2 and will be sharing more clearly with parents the excellent work that has been happening recently in career education for our students.

The data you have provided, in addition to that which will be provided by the Student and Staff Surveys, will inform the development of the 2016 - 2020 AISM Strategic Plan. As soon as Student and Staff data is received and shared with the School’s Executive and Board of Governors we will release summaries of the results in upcoming newsletters. In the interim, please enjoy reading the highlights of the Parent Survey below.
Summary

Overall satisfaction = 88%

Top 5 satisfied areas:
- Professional academic staff 95%
- My child enjoys school 95%
- AISIM is clean & well-maintained 95%
- Safe environment for students 94%
- Help is accessible for child 94%

Least satisfied areas:
- Cafeteria food and services 64%
- Regular updates on progress 68%
- Range of CCA 73%
- AISIM has high academic standards 77%
- Adequate career guidance 78%

Aggregate satisfactions for:

Overall Experience is 88%
Teaching & Learning is 87%
Governance & Leadership is 93%
Faculty & Support Staff is 91%
School Culture & Partnership for Learning is 91%
Operational System is 86%

2015 Top 5 Most Satisfied Areas

Top most satisfied areas:
- Professional academic staff
- My child enjoys school
- AISIM is clean & well-maintained
- Safe environment for students
- My child is able to get help from the teacher

2015 Bottom 5 Least Satisfied Areas

Bottom least satisfied areas:
- Cafeteria food and services
- Regular updates on progress
- Range of CCA that meets child’s interests
- AISIM has high academic standards
- Adequate career guidance

Australian Education

What is your perception of an Australian education?

N = 290

High quality teaching and learning 40%
Good reputation 11%
Affordable 10%
High research quality 10%
Others please specify 5%

Fun, enjoy, Creative, Practical, Creative, hands-on, analytical, Last but not least, group discussion, Mixture of academic & social

How would your child make you proud?

Academic
Linguistic & social skills
Sporting/athletic ability
Arithmetic excellence
Leadership skills
Others

3 Most important: Academic, Linguistic & social skills, Sporting/athletic ability
Simone Fuller, Head of School

International Day 2015

One of our very special days on the calendar is fast approaching- AISM International Day 2015.

During the day there will be a range of activities and performances to highlight the many diverse cultures within our school community. The Parents Association has offered to assist again with the “Around the World Food Tasting” which we are very grateful for. If you would like to help out on one of the food teams, please contact Angela Werner through the PA address.

In addition to this we have incorporated a session on recycling and are in desperate need of coloured plastic bottle tops and newspapers. There are bins placed around the school for collection and we would appreciate your donations.

Students are encouraged to dress up in national costumes from any country. It is certainly a spectacle to see so many children in a variety of nations. The Chin students will also be joining us on the day and will participate in the activities as well as provide a demonstration of their national dance.

A full schedule of events will be sent out to parents closer to the day. Parents are more than welcome to attend our assembly and showcase event.

Middle and Senior School

I would like to wish you a very warm welcome to the second semester and trust that you all had a restful and enjoyable break.

I visited a number of classrooms on Wednesday and students were very eager to share their exciting holiday stories with their peers. It was certainly evident that they missed many of their friends over the break and were very happy to be back.

We welcome back Ms Kitching who will be working part time this semester in the Performing Arts. Welcome also to Ms Jo Cooper who has joined us as our Head of Mathematics. She is very excited to be here and is looking forward to working with our students.

Congratulations to all of our students who competed in the World Scholar’s Cup during the last week of term. All students performed exceptionally well and there were a number of individual and team medals that were awarded to our students in both the Junior and Senior Divisions. Thank you to Mr Broadbent and Ms De Silva for guiding our students through this wonderful educational challenge.

Congratulations must also go to the Design and Technology students who competed in the 3D School’s Challenge over the holidays. Students were invited to participate from all over Southeast Asia. Many of our students took out first and second prizes and won the school a new 3D printer. Mr Tighe has included a detailed article in this newsletter.

Ms. Joanne Cooper,
Head of Department - Mathematics
Jo has been teaching the NSW Mathematics curriculum for the last 20 years in various schools across Sydney and has been Head of Department Maths for 12 of those years. She was recently the Acting Director of Middle School & IB MYP Coordinator at Monte Sant’ Angelo College North Sydney and supports and encourages 21st century pedagogies for 21st century learners.
A letter was sent to all MSS parents this week to outline some changes that will be implemented in the Middle and Senior School to ensure consistency in practice with the submission of assessment tasks. A new Guideline for the Submission of Assessment has been developed and was sent out with the email.

Throughout Home Room time over the next two weeks, teachers will be explaining these guidelines so that every student is aware of the procedures. The submission guideline outlines the process for extension, penalties and procedures for late assessment tasks and information on procedures to follow if a student is absent for an assessment task.

We will also be introducing a new software for students in the Senior School called “TURNITIN”. This program allows students to check their work for levels of plagiarism. TURNITIN will be used as a learning tool for our students.

On Monday of next week, a new document will be entered onto Studywiz for Years 6 to 11. The document will be called “Semester Two Course Outline and Assessment”. The document will contain a brief course overview, assessable outcomes and assessment tasks for each subject within the year level. The front page of the document will include the year level assessment calendar. Assessment task sheets will still be placed in individual subject folders when the assessment is distributed by teachers.

This document has been developed to provide easy accessibility of information for students in one area and to streamline our processes further.

I wish all students a great start to the semester and the exciting times ahead.

**Young Geniuses Win Top Prizes for 3D Educate Challenge**

Before the school closed for the Term 2 holidays, some of our bright students took part in the Educate 3D Challenge, an online contest on ideasworthmaking.com, that encouraged students and teachers from South East Asia to come up with 3D Printing ideas that could inspire other schools on how to use 3D Printing in their classrooms.

Entries were judged on popular and favourite phenomenal ideas based on the question “How Would You Use 3D Printing to Make Education More Engaging?”. By sharing their creativity on Ideas Worth Making, our students were able to connect and share ideas and innovations from other students and teachers within the community.

The students involved in this contest were Gwen Clayton, Holly Manders Jones, Ashra Bhattarai, Carey Loh, Regina Kewo, Eve Weir, Jia Shwen Low, Akane Takeda, Min Pheng, Max Chevelev and Kenjiro Kajita, Sarmad Al-Atabi and Ashley Boudeville. They successfully managed to win 1st and 2nd Prizes in the Most Popular School Projects category, winning a "Quick View" 3D scanner from Vagler & a 3D Software license; 1st, 2nd and 3rd Prizes in the Most Popular Learning Tool category, with a combined win of 3D Software vouchers worth S$500 on iMaterialize; and 1st prize in the Jury Favourite Learning Tools, winning a 3D Software voucher worth S$250.

Congratulations to all students on their tremendous effort and time spent on formulating these ideas. All prizes will be delivered in September 2015.

For information on their winning entries, please click here:
https://ideasworthmaking.com/challenges/educate-3D/winners
In the final week of Term 2, our dedicated ‘Scholaroos’ took part in the 2015 Global Round of the World Scholar’s Cup (WSC). WSC was founded in 2006 has grown to a community of over ten thousand participants from over forty countries. When AISM went to its first Global Round in Singapore in 2009 there was little over 500 students attending. This year the Global Round hosted 3000 students. In fact, it has grown so large that it had to be split in two so that Junior Division and Senior Division competed on different days.

The venue this year was the Kuala Lumpur Convention Centre at KLCC, so our students certainly had the home advantage. The students were made to feel very much a part of the WSC community that prizes both academic rigour and fun. Thousands of participants could be scattered around KLCC during the week, all sporting their very own alpaca soft toy - the mascot for the WSC.

The theme for this year’s program was ‘A World Unbound’. Within this theme students studied interconnected topics including revolutions and movements toward freedom in history, liberating technologies in science and culture and division in social studies. Students even had a special area topic that looked at heroes and superheroes. As with the regional round, students competed in four events (debate, multiple choice test, essay and team challenge). Students score both team and individual points in each event. Our students have been attending three training sessions a week at school since the start of the year and have been doing considerable work over and above their school commitments. This program certainly embodies our school’s motto of exploring, extending and excelling as it pushes our students to find out more about the world around them. All our Scholaroos deserve congratulations for their efforts in qualifying for the global round.

Although the experience is not all about awards and prizes, we did pick up some very pleasing awards despite the very fierce competition. Indeed, the majority of students who attend the Global Round leave without any awards. That our group secured so many individual awards is truly commendable.

In Junior Division the highlights included Valentyn winning silver medals for History & Debate, Airyl for Special Area and Alexander for the Arts & Literature. Sandhaya won the ‘Da Vinci’ award for good all-round performance coming in 4th place overall and the team of Minji, Marius and Regina won a silver medal for the Scholar’s Bowl. Our Junior 1 team of Alex, Valentyn and Declan won medals for team writing, debate and Scholar’s Bowl as well being the top team in Malaysia. They were the 18th best team in the Junior Division out of almost 500 teams! Alexander was our top student in Junior Division and given that this was his first Scholar’s experience, we are expecting big things from him in the future.

In Senior Division the highlights included Kavya, Imran and Tim winning silver medals for debate and Wei Hoong a medal for writing. Sakiko won a silver medal for the Arts and Literature and Imran a silver medal for Science. Zack, Kaveen Thessh and Kyra all won ‘Da Vinci’ awards for good all-round performances. Imran was our top student in Senior Division coming 46th overall in the entire competition - a tremendous effort for him.

Ms D’Silva and I would like to congratulate all our Scholaroos for their hard work and the entire AISM community for their warm support over the past six months.

For more photos click here: World Scholar’s Cup
Futurewise

This week AISM has been visited by Mr Chris Whitehead from Inspiring Futures to profile our Year 10 students who enrolled for Futurewise membership last term. Students sat for a psychometric profile on the first day back at school, and then had follow-up interviews with Mr Whitehead interpreting their profiles and discussing options for the future. Once they have joined, students are a member of Futurewise until their 23rd birthday and have access to the Futurewise website which provides them with the opportunity to research universities, higher education and careers options, and up to date information from around the world. Students also have access to an information, advice and guidance helpline (phone or email) to answer career and higher education related questions.

Mr Whitehead also ran a two-hour workshop with our Year 12 students that covered information on university applications around the world and also gave them the opportunity to draft a personal statement, where they write about their experiences and why they wish to study in their chosen field. Such personal statements are vital to students applying to universities around the world, especially the UK. Students found this to be a very rewarding process.

If you would like your child to enrol for Futurewise, there will be another opportunity next year and all students in Years 10 to 12 are eligible.

University Fairs

I am delighted to inform you of two upcoming university fairs that will be running in Week 3 this term.

IDP Educatin will be hosting an Australian and New Zealand University Fair after school on Tuesday 4th August (3.30pm - 5.30pm) in the Theatre. We are expecting around 16 institutions to attend and we warmly invite all students in Years 7 to 12 and all parents. This is also the night of the Subject Selection Evening, so it is a great opportunity to gather a great deal of useful information regarding both subject choices and university options.

AUG(Aused-Unied) will also be hosting a university fair for institutions in the UK, Malaysia, Singapore and other Asian countries on August 7th. This fair will run during the school hours from 9am until 12pm. All senior school students will be attending during their lesson time. If any parents wish to attend, they are more than welcome. The venue will be in the classrooms next to the Middle Senior School Reception.

For information, please click here: [IDP Australian & New Zealand University Fair]
This week marks the start of Term 3 at AISM and an exciting new beginning for me as I join the AISM community. My name is Justin West and I am the new School Counsellor. I have just moved from Beijing, China, where I was working as a School counsellor for six years. Prior to my China adventure, I worked for 10 years as the School Counsellor at Loyola College, a co-educational secondary school in the north-east suburbs of the beautiful city of Melbourne, my home town.

Before I came to work in schools, I worked in a rehabilitation hospital (with road accident and work-related accident victims) and at the Commonwealth Employment Service helping unemployed youth, so I come to AISM with broad experience in the counselling field and in working with young people. I love working in the school setting - I love the energy, enthusiasm and creativity of young people, as well as the opportunity to work as a team for the greater good of the young people in our care. Helping to support them as they work through issues, problem solve and make informed choices, develop skills to build resilience and confidence are all part of the role. Happy students are happy learners.

I am looking forward to getting to know and working with students here at AISM. I will be visiting classes and meeting students in their homerooms in the coming weeks to introduce myself. Supporting our parents in their crucial parenting role is also an important part of the role so I am very happy to meet with parents and discuss any concerns you might have regarding your children. Parents are welcome to email or telephone me to arrange a time to meet. Over the coming months, I will be including information in the newsletter on particular parenting or child/adolescent related topics as a way of keeping your parenting tool kits up to date.

We have a number of new students and families who have just joined the school this week, and the transition process can be both an exciting and challenging time as families settle into a new school and environment. The school works hard to support students as they adjust to their new surroundings and learning environment and as they make new connections and build new friendships.

I encourage you to talk with your child’s home-room and class teacher/s, check out what activities your child might be involved in - doing things that they enjoy is a great way of settling them as well as providing opportunities for them to meet other children with similar interests. Having regular time together as a family - having a meal together, talking about the day, watching a movie together, are all great ways of helping young people feel safe and secure in times of change. It can take time to settle in but with patience, understanding, a sense of humour, and support, you and your child will transition into the new routine and environment, and enjoy all that AISM and the great city of Kuala Lumpur has to offer.

Have a great Term 3!

Justin West, School Counsellor

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Have a great Term 3!
It was my pleasure to welcome students back to the Junior School on Wednesday. Whilst it was not my first day back at work and I always enjoy the opportunity to get work done during non term time, schools are just not the same without children, and it has been lovely to see so many happy faces and hear the sound of children again. Work has begun apace and regular routines will be in place by Monday.

Please remind your children to bring their hats to school. Children who do not have a hat are required to play in the shade, which for many of our children is a poor option compared to playing on the fields, the play equipment and the Four Square courts.

The Stage 1 children have had a wonderful time playing with new games, dress ups and construction materials. Whilst some of this has been purchased and arrived over the holidays, the majority of the creative play materials came from donations from parents whose children no longer use these toys. If you do have toys that you no longer use, and which are appropriate for our younger children, please drop them in at the Junior School Reception.

A very warm welcome to the 15 new students in the Junior School this term. Whilst it is always sad to see friends leave, it is always exciting to see new students join us.
Co-Curricular Activities
The CCA program for Semester 2 will begin on 3 August. If you have not already signed your children up for their activities, please login to the parent portal and make your selections. I personally found the new system very easy to use. Please direct any questions about CCAs to the Junior School CCA Coordinator, Mr Damian Pietsch, on coord.js.pe@aism.edu.my.

Semester 1 Reports
Semester 1 reports were published on the parent portal on Thursday 25 June. If you have been unable to access these reports, please contact elearning@aism.edu.my. If you wish to discuss these reports with your child’s class teacher, please make an appointment for an interview.

VISIBLE LEARNING

On Monday 20 July, teaching staff were involved in their second Visible Learning training day for the year. Teachers began by sharing the work they had completed during Term 2. These Impact Cycles were focused on the attributes of an effective learner, and teachers undertook an investigation into children’s understanding of what makes an effective learner. It really was quite inspiring to hear these stories and I commend all the Junior School teachers on the effort they put into these investigations. The development in children’s understanding, demonstrated through these presentations, was impressive.

John Hattie is always refining his work and the hundred influences on student achievement that he identified in his first book published in 2009, grew to 150 in 2012 and has grown again to 200. These new influences will be published in his latest edition, due out shortly. A new influence that he has identified, and which research has proven to have a very significant impact on student achievement, is ‘teacher collective efficacy’.

Essentially what this means is that student achievement is enhanced when teachers work together to make each other better. Teachers having the opportunity to collaboratively plan for instruction and assessment and to discuss their practice and the needs of their students is critical. Class teachers in the Junior School are timetabled to ensure that grade partners have a scheduled time to work collaboratively each week, and throughout the term Mrs Smith endeavours to provide opportunities to free up teachers so that they can collaborate further. Such planning time is certainly not just an opportunity for teachers to catch up on administration, rather it is an opportunity for them to work with their professional colleagues to ensure enhanced learning outcomes for our students.
Walkathon/Matilda Project Fundraising Total

Great news! The total raised for the Walkathon/Matilda Project thus far is RM 53,929! Thank you everyone for your contributions. For those of you yet to return your fundraising efforts, there is still time. Please try to return all donations by Friday Week 2. Every ringgit counts!

Application for Sabah Service Learning Trip - Years 8, 9 & 10 Students

As mentioned in the previous newsletter, application forms for the Week 9 Sabah Service Learning Trip are due Friday (today!). Students were re-emailed this application form early this week as a reminder. We are looking for students who are keen to become fully embedded in the life of the students at the Asrama Desa Pukak Hostel. Looking forward to receiving some great applications.

To download the Applications form click below:
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Are you interested to pursue a degree at The University of Melbourne, Australia?

The University of Melbourne is ranked Number 13 in the world for the employability of its graduates^\. As a Melbourne graduate, you'll join an elite group of professionals at an institution that is internationally recognised as a leader in research and education. Come find out how you can drive your career forward with a degree from Australia’s Number 1 university*.

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Join us and find out how you can drive your career forward with a degree from Australia’s No. 1 University*.

Information Session 2015

When:
Saturday 1 August 2015
2.00pm – 6.00pm

Where:
Level 6 (Parry), Le Meridien Kuala Lumpur
2 Jalan Stesen Sentral, Kuala Lumpur Sentral, Kuala Lumpur 50470

For more information:
ongky@unimelb.edu.au
http://futurestudents.unimelb.edu.au/open-malaysia
facebook.com/unimelb

^QS World University Rankings 2014-2015
*Times Higher Education World University Rankings 2014-2015
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We are offering full and partial scholarships to expatriate students to experience and excel with a world-class Australian curriculum.

Successful candidates will enter our two-year matriculation program for Years 11 and 12, leading to the internationally recognised Higher School Certificate.

Closing Date:
Wednesday, 26 August 2015

To apply, visit www.aism.edu.my/scholarships.cfm or contact the Principal's Assistant at 03-8949 5000 / papprincipal@aism.edu.my