Mia Tan Performed at Permata Seni Muzik Concert
Dr Deborah Priest

Principal’s Address

Good luck for your HSC examinations Year 12s

Welcome back to the final term of the 2015 academic year. As I write this newsletter, I know our Year 12 students are undertaking their final revision and preparation for their HSC examinations that commence on Monday 12 October. On behalf of all of our school community I wish the Year 12 students our best wishes and encouragement. Under the careful guidance of their teachers, they have worked hard and we look forward to them receiving the fruits of their labours in outstanding grades and personal best achievements.

Teaching your child to think

While some people may see Term 4 as a time to “wind down” from a busy year, I prefer to view it as a time to reflect, realign and reposition thinking for the coming year. Currently there is a lot of talk in the media about children developing thinking skills as opposed to just knowledge. However, it is not only children who could benefit from developing their thinking skills.

According to Robert Sternberg, a Yale psychology professor and author of Beyond IQ, only four out of 10 adults of ‘normal’ intelligence correctly solved a range of straightforward problems presented to them in his research. Some of the problems are listed below:

- If you and I have the same amount of money, how much do I need to give you so that you’ll have $10 more than I do?
- If you have a drawer full of black and brown socks, with 4 black ones for every 5 brown ones, how many socks must you take out before you can be sure of having a matching pair?

The reason many children and adults fail to solve problems such as these is because they get ‘trapped’ in familiar thinking patterns. That is, they cling to familiar ‘vertical thinking’ strategies when a creative solution is required. Edward de Bono, founder of the Cognitive Research trust in Cambridge, England and author of many books on thinking, likens problem solving to drilling for oil. He suggests that when vertical thinkers get stuck they just keep digging deeper in the same spot whereas a creative thinker may start drilling in a different spot or in a different way.

An interesting example of this is currently happening in Queensland, Australia. In Australia’s pursuit for energy, miners have previously scarred the landscape with open cut coal mines. Now however, instead of taking the coal out of the ground, miners leave the coal in the ground but take the gas out of the coal.

The good news is that according to Miriam and Otto Ehrenberg, psychologists and authors of Optimum Brain Power, the ability to think creatively can be learned and the best place to begin teaching creative thinking is at home. Here are some tips to try at home with your children. Talk intelligently to your children and don’t dumb down your vocabulary just because your child does not use the words you can.
Whole School

Mia Tan Makes Beautiful Music with the Permata Seni Muzik Orchestra

For the past year, Year 5 student Mia Tan has been a part of the Permata Seni Muzik Orchestra, a special programme that provides exposure to national level musical performances to students across the country. Mia auditioned last year and was selected to join the orchestra with a host of other talented musicians. The program is the brainchild of the Prime Minister's wife Datin Paduka Seri YA Bhg Rosmah Mansor. Istana Budaya has been given the task to develop the program, which aims to identify and develop Malaysian students who are musically gifted.

Mia is thankful to have received the support and encouragement from the school. It has proven to be a great experience for Mia, both musically and culturally.

Click the link below for a video clip on her performance with the orchestra at the recent Permata Seni Muzik Concert, at the Dewan Tunku Abdul Rahman MaTiC.

- Try to speak in past, present and future tenses as often as possible.
- Expose your children to music; sing songs together and play music quietly in the background at home.
- Encourage your child to write; let them make their own books complete with pictures and bindings.
- Let children organise their belongings in different ways; first by colour, then by size – make a game out of it.
- Swap roles with your children for an hour or two, they can start dinner with your help or they can prepare the shopping list as if they were the adult (I do not recommend letting them drive the family car!)
- Play battleships and mastermind; these games are wonderful ways to develop deductive thinking patterns
- Debate current issues with your children; this shows them you value their opinion and helps them to follow a line of thinking and to justify a position.

These are just a few ways to foster an open way of thinking that is always ready to explore creative problem solving.
I trust that all of our families had a relaxing break over the past weeks. It is always refreshing to see our students back on the first day full of energy and smiles. We would like to extend a very warm welcome to all of the new families who have joined us this term and trust that the transition of the children into our school will be enjoyable.

Home room teachers will be in contact with you early next week to ensure that your child is settling well.

We have a very busy term ahead and it is important for students to be planning their time. The assessment calendars for the term are available on Studywiz. There will be an exam block held in Week 6 that will extend to Monday of Week 7 from 9 to 16 November and it is important to ensure that this is a time for student focus and engagement. No additional school activities will take place the week prior to exams.

Year 12 students will begin their HSC exams on Monday. I would like to wish them the very best as they embark on these important times. Support from staff will continue to be offered to students between exams if needed.

I would like to welcome Ms Kathryn Sutherland to the Middle and Senior School. Ms Sutherland has been appointed as the new Deputy Head of the Middle and Senior School for 2016 and we are fortunate to have her with us this term in order to ensure a smooth handover from the current leadership team. Ms Sutherland comes to us from the Northern Territory in Australia where she has been working with the Department of Education. She was the Deputy Principal, Academic, at Kormilda College where she has gained experience in the Australian National Curriculum and IB. She has held a key leadership role accountable for the management of the day to day operations of Kormilda College as well as the academic programs across the Primary, Middle and Senior Schools. We look forward to having Ms Sutherland work with our team this term.

**World Teachers Day**

On Monday 5 October, the school celebrated World Teachers Day. Staff were provided with a lovely lunch and were treated to a massage by trained masseurs from the Blind Association. It is a day that we recognise the tireless efforts of our teachers and the care and dedication that they have toward their students.

The PA also provided a lovely surprise to our staff on Wednesday this week and I would like to thank them, and particularly Emily Durkin for the morning tea muffins that were provided.

**Reports**

The reports for Year 11 Preliminary HSC will be released to the parent portal on Wednesday 21 October while the Year 12 HSC final report will be released on Friday 16 October. Please contact the school if you have any problems accessing the reports on the portal.

**Year 12 Formal**

The students, along with Mr James Unsworth and the Year 12 Home Room teachers, have been working hard to put together a wonderful evening for the Year 12 Formal. Invites were sent to all Year 12 parents prior to the holidays. If you have not received one, please contact the Middle and Senior School Reception so that this can be arranged.
Moving Between Cultures

A student demonstrates knowledge of key features of French-speaking communities

Madame Liliane Heininger, HOD Modern Languages.

In order to assess ‘Moving Between Cultures’ last term, Year 7 French students were asked to research a French fashion designer. They were required to produce a PowerPoint Presentation giving a brief outline, in English, of the designer’s life, career and the main type of fashion they concentrated on. Another requirement of the task was to select an outfit and give a detailed description in French.

Oral presentations took place in class today and all were excellent, interesting and engaging. I would like to congratulate Year 7 on their hard work and the enthusiasm with which they supported their fellow students.
**American University Visit**

We were very lucky to welcome a party of 10 American universities to AISU on Tuesday 6 October. Students in Year 10 and Year 11 were able to speak with the representatives about a huge number of courses on offer. With 4,495 degree awarding institutions in the USA, it is not surprising it is such a popular destination. The USA offers variety, both in the type of college and the type of degree, ensuring that there is something for everyone. It is tempting to only think of Ivy League Universities when thinking about the USA, but it is important to consider all the unique opportunities on offer. It is vital to research carefully before applying. If you would like to know more, please visit www.macee.org.

**Psychology Talk**

On Thursday 8 October, Dr. Nigel Holt, Head of Psychology at the University of Aberystwyth, in the UK, came to speak to students in Senior School. Psychology is a very popular course amongst our students and it was excellent to hear his passion for the subject. If you would like to know more about Psychology please visit http://www.topuniversities.com/courses/psychology/guide.

**Career Voyage**

All Year 9 students are currently completing a Career Voyage survey. The idea of Career Voyage is that it presents the students with a series of statements designed to determine their interest in a variety of different areas.

By answering a series of online questions, students will be given up to 40 career suggestions that best match their stated preferences. Of the 40, they are then able to choose their ten favourite. All this is then generated as a PDF report. By the end of Week 2 all Year 9 students will have generated their PDF report. If you have a child in Year 9, I would recommend that you ask to look at this report and discuss its findings with your son or daughter. It is hoped that this might stimulate discussion regarding future subject selection choices and possibly even university courses.
AISM hosted a girls’ basketball camp on 4 and 5 September on the AISM campus. The two-day camp was organised by two AISM teachers as well as coaches from the Malaysian Dragons basketball team. The purpose of the camp was to focus on teamwork and basketball fundamentals which also included an internal competition and awards. Aysa Bahar Arjmand won the Most Valuable Player Award and Yasmine McKibbin won the Coach’s Award. The AISM coaches would like to congratulate all the students who attended and put in great effort and hard work with hopefully a bit of fun mixed in.

I was thinking about parties and gatherings and helping our young people celebrate safely. We all enjoy parties. They provide opportunities to relax, socialise and just have fun. For our young people, it is part of learning how to socialise and learning social skills. Teenagers can often view alcohol as a way to make friends, fit in with peers and feel like an adult and parties are an opportunity for this. However, we also know that there are many risks associated with teenage drinking, including the impact on the developing adolescent brain.

In the coming weeks, I will be including a series of three related articles. This week’s article (the first in the series) is on teenagers and alcohol, and the possible risks associated with starting to drink at an early age. The article comes from the pen of Melbourne based author and parenting specialist, Michael Grose. He focuses on the influence of parents’ behaviours and attitudes to drinking on teenage drinking and has some very practical suggestions on what parents can do to foster sensible drinking habits.

The Australian Drug Foundation has a great website where you can find some of the latest research and findings, and facts on alcohol and other drugs so if you feel like you need to be more informed, then this is a great place to start. Check out: www.druginfo.adf.org.au

In the coming weeks, stay tuned for the second article in the series on friendships and the power of peers in adolescence, and the third article on hosting teenage parties - things to consider in minimising the risks and maximising the fun for our young people.
Welcome back to Term 4 to all of our returning students. It was wonderful to see the children on Tuesday, full of excitement and stories from their holiday adventures. Children are such social creatures, and it always a pleasure to feel the buzz when classes come back together after a break. A special welcome goes out to our 14 new Junior School students and their families. From all reports our new students have settled in quickly and I trust our new parents have found our community to be welcoming and friendly. I look forward to a busy, productive and happy term ahead.

International School Assessments (ISA)

Students from Years 3 to 5 participated in the ISA Assessment program this week. Students sat papers in the areas of Mathematical Literacy, Reading and Writing. Our students have completed practice papers to ensure they are familiar with the format of the assessments, but we do not coach our students for success. The purpose of these assessments is to provide the School and parents with a genuine understanding of student’s progress in relation to other students in similar contexts and this is not achieved through teaching to a test. Results will be provided to the School towards the very end of the year (in 2014 we received them on Christmas Eve) and will be distributed to parents early in 2016. This allows the School time to analyse the results and provide a comprehensive and transparent report to parents and the community about our performance. If you have any questions about these assessments, please contact me on hos.js@aism.edu.my.

Reports

Term 3 Progress Reports were published on the Engage Parent Portal at the end of last term. If you have any queries about these reports or any areas of concern after reading them, please make contact with your child’s class teacher. Comprehensive end of year reports will be available on 10 December.

Uniforms

Children grow at an amazing rate. I distinctly remember my eldest son growing out of a new pair of runners over the six week end of year vacation! What often happens in Term 4 is that children’s school shoes wear out throughout halfway through the term and parents are understandably reluctant to purchase expensive new shoes for a few weeks of school that may not fit next January. I completely understand this predicament, so if your child does require new shoes, please do your best to ensure the shoes they wear to school are as close to black as possible. Cheap black runners or a bit of boot polish will ensure our students still look presentable for the important end of year services and assemblies.

HAZE

The haze is certainly not pleasant and we are all crossing our fingers that this annual event does not persist for much longer. The school has guidelines that are consistent with all other Taylor’s Schools. They do, however, rely on government published readings that are not always current and are based on the nearest reading station at Putrajaya, which is over 10km away. Whilst we do follow the guidelines below, we also use common sense, and if the latest readings are in obvious contrast to what we see outside, we will use our judgement as to supervision of the children. Some parents have advised me that their children have medical conditions that make them especially susceptible to the haze. If your child has such a condition and you wish for them to remain inside during light haze, please provide your child’s class teacher with a medical certificate and advise your child to attend the Library during break times. There is not enough space for all children to attend the Library, so only children with a medical certificate are permitted to use the Library. Of course if the readings are above 130, or our eyes tell us that it is particularly unpleasant outside, we will provide alternate indoor supervision for all students.

- <100  business as usual
- 100-130  limit active play - no play on ovals or strenuous activities in sport
- 131-199  consider keep children inside,
- >200  close the school on the next school day unless on a Friday
Welcome to our library for Term 4. The library has a range of new resources covering upcoming festivals such as Halloween, Diwali and Christmas.

The Harry Potter series continues to be very popular. The latest editions with new graphics have already been borrowed. This series chronicles the adventures of a young wizard, Harry Potter and his friends. The series has sold more than 450 million copies worldwide and has been translated into 73 languages so far.

Our library has multiple copies of the series in English as well as in Korean, Japanese and Mandarin.

Siche, 3W says that she likes the Harry Potter books because they are scary and also very enjoyable.

Teacher’s Favourite Books

The Muddle headed Wombat is my childhood favourite. I used to listen to it as an audio book.

My Life as a Fake by Peter Carey is my adult book choice. This book made me want to come and live in Kuala Lumpur because it sounded like a great city.

Mr Will Arnold

I loved Wombat Stew as a child. My mum was a librarian and always brought home the latest books and this title was one of them.

As an adult I am addicted to autobiographies and memoirs because you learn so much about other people’s lives. I like to know other people’s perspectives on life.

Ms Alex Stavenuiter
Others

Information on Rabies: Rabies Outbreak in the Northern States.

Denise McFarlane, School Nurse

There were nine cases in Perlis, two in Penang and one in Kedah. “But none of them have been confirmed to have the virus. They do not show any symptoms and are clinically okay.

“To confirm whether a person has rabies, it can only be done by testing the brain tissues after death,”

Clinical symptoms such as, foaming at the mouth, there was a high likelihood that it was rabies.

The Ministry of Health said the 12 victims were given anti-rabies vaccines and would be kept under observation for a few weeks.

He said the last case of a human having rabies was in 1998 in Kedah, adding that Malaysia was declared rabies-free in 2012.

The Veterinary Services Department had declared Perlis, Kedah and Penang as rabies infected states. The outbreak was first detected in Perlis on Aug 19 before it spread to Penang on Sept 8.

“The 14 government hospitals in the three states have enough stock of anti-rabies vaccines.”

He said there were 73 cases of dog bites in the northern states involving 66 animals. The ministry of health urged the public, especially those in the northern states, to adopt preventive steps, including getting prompt treatment, when bitten by either domesticated or wild dogs before informing the authorities of places with stray dogs.

“One should practise good hygiene after coming into contact with a pet dog by washing one’s hands with water and soap.” First Aid for any bites is to wash with soap and water first and go straight to the nearest hospital to get medical treatment if needed.

Have you heard?
1. Is Sitting Killing Us?

BACK PAIN affects more than 80% of the global adult population. In the USA alone over $100B is spent annually on back care management with more than 60% of teenagers under the age of 15 years old experiencing some form of back and neck pain already. Back pain is the no 2 reason why we visit the doctor behind cold/flu. With today’s advances in modern technology, now everyone is susceptible to ‘tech-wreck’, not just ‘tech-neck’. Recent studies link sitting to increased risks of obesity, heart disease, and diabetes.

Poor posture has literally become a member of the family. Every time your family sees each other, they see bad posture too. We spend too much time sitting, putting pressure and stress on the spine it just wasn’t meant to handle. So what can you do?

Don’t wait for pain to be your reminder that you need to make a change. Awareness plays a major ally in the fight against posture stress. Learn the whats, whys, and hows about posture so you and your family can change your posture and change your life.

2. TECH WRECK – iPosture Syndrome

These are ‘tech-times’ and nearly everyone, including our growing kids fall prey to spending too much time using smartphones, tablets, computers, mobile gaming devices, and more. We call it ‘Tech-Wreck’.

Recent studies and media articles have been highlighting the damaging effects of Tech-Wreck concepts on the back and body. ‘Tech-Neck’ or ‘iPosture Syndrome’ is quickly topping the charts as one of the more common issues we all face.

Technology is changing quickly. It’s a part of our regular daily activities. So we need to stop resisting it and learn how to merge with it. Instead of fighting an uphill battle against iPosture Syndrome every day, learn how you and your family can make simple, yet important changes to your daily posture habits to reduce and eventually prevent the damaging effects that poor posture has on everyone at home.

3. GETTING YOU BACK ON YOUR FEET!

Are you flat footed? Are your arches high? Do you have foot, knee, or back pain?

Not only do we all need to move more, we need to move better! Posture balance relies on our feet as much as it does on our spine. When we stand, walk, and move, we need to maintain healthy postural balance so our body can function efficiently with every step we take.

Learn how much your feet dictate your body posture and determine whether you and your feet are straining your posture, or keeping it well balanced as you move.

Brought to you by Healthworks  http://the-health-works.com/

Dr. Barry Kluner is a licensed Chiropractor from Canada. He is one of the pioneers of Chiropractic in Malaysia, practicing here since 2001. Specializing in spine & joint conditions and posture restoration, he is also board certified in Physiotherapy, Sports Massage Therapy, and recently completed certification as a Chiropractic Clinical Sports Medicine Specialist. Aside from clinical practice, Dr. Barry also provides his expertise and serves as Product Designer and Techno-Commercial Consultant Asia-Pacific for BackJoy, the world’s authority on posture products. You will often hear him say, ‘bad posture isn’t always your fault. Not doing something about it is’
AISM is delighted to welcome the following new students who joined us in Term 4/2015

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Melbourne Cup

TUESDAY
3rd NOVEMBER 2015

9:00AM - 4:00PM
CONCORDE HOTEL
2, Jalan Sultan Ismail, Kuala Lumpur

Member RM260
Non-member RM290

Inclusive of:
- Light Breakfast / Buffet Lunch
- Free Flow Bubbles, Wine & Beer

VENUE PARTNER
CONCORDE HOTEL
KUALA LUMPUR

Tickets on sale through MANZA House
t +603 2284 7145
e manzaoffice@gmail.com
RSVP and payment by Tuesday, 20th October

Tickets Will not be available at the door on the day of the event.
CHARITY CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

SUNDAY
15TH NOVEMBER 2015
LE MERIDIEN HOTEL
10AM - 2:30PM

GIFTS • CRAFTS • CHARITY STALLS • 2ND HAND BOOKS
HOME BAKING • MANZA QUILTERS RAFFLE • REFRESHMENTS
TRASH & TREASURE • LUCKY DOOR PRIZES • RM8-PARKING
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