Creative Arts Week
Dr Deborah Priest

Principal’s Address

Last week AISM conducted its final formal Open Week of 2015. The messages that we have been sharing with prospective parents focus on how inquiry-based and visible learning, facilitated through an Australian curriculum, prepares students not only to succeed at university but also to succeed as an independent adult. Many schools, including AISM, focus and publicly report predominantly on the learning outcomes of students in the final few years of schooling. However, at AISM we also know that the teaching and learning that takes place in the early years of schooling is equally important.

This week I read an article written by Australian teachers, Louise Thorpe and David Gilkes, in the July 2015 edition of the Professional Educator journal (pp.12-14). The writers reinforced the value of the style of early learning education our teachers provide at AISM. I have shared some of the article below:

As early educators we believe strongly in play and rich inquiry based learning, as well as viewing children as competent, curious and creative individuals. We believe that children co-construct their learning through relationships with others and their environment and we find ourselves frequently challenged by business, standardised or outdated approaches to education......

What do we mean by ‘education’ today? What do we mean by ‘school’? What does it mean to be ‘successful’? Society has changed and continues to change and education needs to reflect this...... Does a ‘one size fits all’ approach to education help give children skills and knowledge that can be applied to a multitude of contexts? Does the approach cater for a child’s interests or passions? Why in so many sectors of society do test scores, answers and concepts that can be measured, seem to be given greater value than skills and aptitudes such as critical thinking and creativity?......

Thorpe and Gilkes go on to say that,

......if we start to see schools as places of research, where children and adults can co-construct knowledge and their understanding of the world together, then we will begin to take some steps in the right direction ...... This belief is at the core of the values our colleagues Reggio Emilia live and work by. Indeed, such socio-constructivist theories are completely echoed in and supported by the Australian Early Years Learning Framework (ELYF), Belonging, Being and Becoming.

The ELYF stated that, “children actively construct their own understandings and contribute to other’s learning. They recognise their agency, capacity to initiate and lead learning and their rights to participate in decisions that affect them, including their learning. (Australian Government Department of Education Employment and Workplace Relations, 2009, p.9) Each time I have visited our AISM Early Learning Centre (ELC) I am proud to see our youngest students collaborating, negotiating, directing and taking control of their learning in a supportive environment. These early years are a vital opportunity to prepare these young students to be open, curious, explorative and most of all confident. AISM is always open to visitors by appointment and I encourage any parents who have friends with small children about to enter school for the first time, to come and see our ELC and just sit and watch our little learners for a while. It is a delight and an insight into how learning should be conducted for pre-schoolers.
AISM Launches Google Classroom in 2016

Ms Kylie Booker, Director of Curriculum and Innovation

Over the last few years AISM has been trialling the effectiveness of GOOGLE apps for education and in 2016 we will be replacing the current school virtual learning environment (Studywiz) with Google Classroom. We have considered your ongoing feedback about the challenges for parents with the use of Studywiz and responded with what we believe is an exciting solution. Google Apps For Education allows all AISM students and staff to have the opportunity to utilize a variety of cloud-based applications, developed by Google, to enhance the learning environment.

Google Classroom is a part of this suite of cloud-based applications and one your child may utilize in his or her courses daily in 2016. Google Classroom was designed hand-in-hand with Google Apps for Education teachers to help teachers and students save time, keep classes organized, and improve communication with students and parents.

While parents cannot currently enrol in Google Classroom, students do have the ability to share the work they are doing in Google Classroom with their parents. All MSS students will be requested to share each of their subject classrooms with their parents in the first week of school in 2016 so parents can monitor the ongoing academic progress of their children. As part of their pastoral care program students will be taken through the steps to facilitate this but in order for the students to share classroom, parents are required to have a Google Account (gmail). If you do not have a Gmail address please click here to sign up!

We would then request that parents register their gmail account on the parent portal as their primary email address as this email address will be used in the future with upcoming projects. Parents who already have a non-gmail email address can most likely have all their current emails diverted to the new Gmail account without the ongoing need to close or access the original email account.

This is a very exciting development in the life of AISM. We will be running parent workshops early in 2016 which will be published on the 2016 school calendar. If you have any further questions please contact dir.curr@aism.edu.my
Message from Middle & Senior School

Simone Fuller, Head of School

Year Level Leaders

This year AISM introduced Year Level Leaders in the Middle and Senior School to support our Home Room Teachers which has been very successful. In 2016 we will be extending these position to include a separate Year Level Leader for Years 7 and 8 as students at this age will benefit from a single leader. I am pleased to announce the appointment of our Year Level Leaders for 2016 and would like congratulate:

- Susie Skinner- Year 6
- Rebekah Genet- Year 7
- Alison Jafari- Year 8
- Dara Higham- Year 9/10
- James Unsworth- Year 11/12

Year 5 Parent Transition Evening

Thank you to all parents who were able to attend the Information Evening on “Transition into the Middle School” on Tuesday evening. The information that was provided was about the changes, in the structure of the school, that students will encounter as well as changes in expectations. In addition to this we discussed some of the other elements that impact on young adolescents, at this time of their lives, and how we manage and support our students. I also presented the changes in the curriculum structure for Year 6 in 2016. I appreciate that there were parents that were not able to attend this evening so have I attached a link (Click here) to the powerpoint that was shown on the evening. In addition to this, the session was videoed and can be found at Year 5 Transition Video.

Book Return

A gentle reminder that all books, including text books, need to be returned to the library by 10 December. Classes have been given a scheduled day to return these in bulk during 8 and 9 December.

Middle and Senior School Awards Assembly will be held in the auditorium on Tuesday 8 December from 2.00pm. The Giving Tree Assembly will also be held in the morning of the 10 December from 11.45am. Parents are more than welcome to attend.

Student Success

Last month two of our students, Shay and Sydney Maynard, competed in the Penang International Festival with Horses, held at the Penang Turf Club.

Throughout the week in Penang, Shay and Sydney competed against teams from Singapore, Belgium, Sweden, The Netherlands, Turkmenistan, South Africa, and Portugal. Shay competed in showjumping and dressage classes and won the Preliminary overall champion for Dressage and three 2nd placings - a 3rd, 4th and 5th placing in show jumping classes.

Sydney also had a number of achievements including: Preparatory Overall Champion (dressage), Preliminary Overall Reserve Champion (dressage) and 3rd place and 5th place in showjumping event.

This is a wonderful achievement for both Shay and Sydney and we look forward to following their progress in the time ahead.
6W Science start coding their ‘robotic friends’

Susie Skinner, Year 6 Science

6W Science have been getting ready for the Hour of Code, an international event to encourage everyone around the world to get involved in computer science.

6W learned to write instructions using symbols and discovered why we need to be precise when we are coding.

Students worked in groups of three. They took turns at being ‘programmers’ and ‘robots’. The robot was sent away while the programmers wrote a set of instructions for a task that the robot would soon have to complete. The task was to stack plastic cups. And the instructions had to be written in a code using just six symbols -

- Pick Up Cup
- Put Down Cup
- Move 1/2 Cup Width Forward
- Move 1/2 Cup Width Backward
- Turn Cup Right 90°
- Turn Cup Left 90°

The programmers wrote their code then called back their robots and asked them to follow the instructions. After the code was tested and debugged, everyone swapped roles and had turns at being programmers and robots. The instructions were simple at first but as you can imagine programmers wanted to give their robots more and more challenging arrangements to build.

Students really enjoyed the challenge and were very engaged, as you can see in the photos.

Sounds easy? Why don’t you try writing the code for this arrangement at home?

Next week, Year 6 Science will be doing more coding and taking part in the international Hour of Code. Parents can find out more at Hour of Code website. There are many wonderful short videos to inspire everyone, young and old! Make sure you take a moment to have a look.

Enjoy these photos of 6W Science students at work!

1) Soraya & TJ write their code
2) Then Soraya and TJ watch as their robot Priyanka follows the code
3) Poppy and Dain write their code
4) Poppy and Dain debug their code
5) Poppy and Dain watch as their robot Vivian follows their instructions to build a tower of cups
6) Ross and Yasmin write their code
Careers Corner
Christopher Broadbent, Careers and Pathway Planning Coordinator/Teacher

Careers Research Project

For the past nine years, AISM has run an annual ‘Careers Research Project’ which aims to offer an opportunity for students to experience, at first-hand, the world of work outside of school. This past week, our Year 10 students have been out of school conducting their Careers Research Project in businesses around Kuala Lumpur.

Through participation in the Careers Research Project students will:

- have the chance (perhaps for the first time) to learn first-hand something about the tasks, responsibilities, opportunities, problems and pressures that people experience every day in the world of work.

- see how the knowledge and skills they are acquiring in school can be applied to the working environment.

- be able to discover what it is that employers look for and value most in their workforce; what qualities employers are looking for. This will help them later in life when they are applying for jobs.

- gain experience from this project that may help them in making decisions about higher education and career path ways.

On behalf of AISM, I would like to thank all providers for giving up so much of their time, and the parents of Year 10 for supporting them through this demanding week.
Visible Thinking
Kerry Smith, Deputy Head of Junior School

Visible Thinking routines are grouped into the following three areas:

1. Introducing and Exploring Ideas
2. Synthesising and Organising Ideas
3. Digging Deeper into Ideas

Over the last few weeks, Mr Parry has written about the ‘See, Think, Wonder’ routine, which is used as a way to introduce a new idea or concept and to encourage the students to start thinking about the idea in more depth. Mr Roberts has written about Headlines, which is a routine used to assist students to gather information and make tentative conclusions. The final category includes routines that encourage students to think deeply about a concept.

What Makes You Say That?
How tempting it is to want to provide answers to our curious, clever children’s questions? Perhaps in doing so, we are missing an opportunity for them to think more deeply - to become accustomed to turning an idea over in their head fully, before committing to one answer, one viewpoint, one reaction? The ‘What Makes You Say That’ Thinking Routine is a technique that helps develop thinking, interpretations and justifications. Some of our staff are currently using it and it’s very easy to apply - especially at home!

This routine helps students describe what they see or know and asks them to build explanations. It promotes evidential reasoning (evidence-based reasoning) and because it invites students to share their interpretations, it also encourages students to understand alternatives and multiple perspectives.

When examining an artefact or concept, the key questions that can be used with this routine are:

- What's going on?
- What can you see that makes you say that?
- What do you know that makes you say that?

This is a thinking routine that asks students to describe something, such as an object or concept, and then support their interpretation with evidence. Because the basic questions in this routine are flexible, it is useful when looking at objects such as works of art or historical artefacts, but it can also be used to explore a poem, make scientific observations and hypotheses, or investigate more conceptual ideas (like democracy). The routine can be adapted for use with almost any subject and may also be useful for gathering information on students’ general concepts when introducing a new topic.

Junior School Staffing News 2016
I am pleased to be in a position to announce the Junior School teaching staff for 2016.
The Junior School Awards Assembly will begin at 9.30am on Tuesday 8 December, and the annual Speech Day will commence at 11.15am on Tuesday 15 December. Parents of students whose efforts and achievements are being recognised at these assemblies, will have received an invitation to one or more of these events, but of course all parents are welcome to attend.

**Awards Assembly and Speech Day**

The Junior School Awards Assembly will begin at 9.30am on Tuesday 8 December, and the annual Speech Day will commence at 11.15am on Tuesday 15 December. Parents of students whose efforts and achievements are being recognised at these assemblies, will have received an invitation to one or more of these events, but of course all parents are welcome to attend.

**Art Showcase**

Thank you very much to the parents who assisted in the preparation for the recent Junior School Art Showcase. There was some lovely work on display. A number of pieces have been selected to be framed and placed on permanent display around the Junior School. Congratulations to those students whose artwork has been selected, and thank you to all the students who contributed to this year’s display.

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**Mei Er Chua - Nursery**

**Elizabeth Broadbent - Prep**

**Sophie Lau - Foundation**

**Hannah Ju - Year 1**
Over the past weekend, Singapore held its annual Duathlon championship at the tree-lined East Coast Park. They postponed this national event from early October due to haze.

Goh Yin Jenn and Tania Thong represented AISM in this popular event. Although the kids categories’ distance of 750 metres run, followed by a 6 km bike, and ending with another 750 metres run was short, the pace was unrelenting.

Yin Jenn’s enthusiasm to participate in this event, after a bad head injury received just 24 hours prior, is to be commended. She pushed on and finished the race, despite a huge bump on her head. Yin Jenn’s determined spirit will take her far into next year’s events.

Tania won the Girls’ U12 race with a blistering pace. Her time of 22:01 minutes was a large margin over her fellow competitors. She is now the 2015 double Duathlon Champion in Singapore, having added the Singapore Duathlon crown to her Metasprint Duathlon win in March this year. Tania is also the current 2015 Singapore Triathlon Kids Champion. Congratulations Tania and all of our wonderful duathletes.

On Saturday 28 November close to 50 AISM Junior School Girls participated in the Sporty Girls Netball Tournament at Alice Smith Junior School. We had 6 teams participate in the Under 7, Under 9 and Under 11 categories. All the girls participated really well on the day and had a great time. The behaviour and sportsmanship shown by all the girls was also commendable.

All the teams were very competitive and it was great to see the Under 7 team showing great enthusiasm, learning so much throughout the day and making great improvements from Semester 1. They finished 2nd in their age group!

Both Under 9 teams played really well, with the Green team playing against girls a year older than them. The Gold team finished 3rd in their age group. Well done both teams.

We fielded 3 teams in the Under 11 age group. All of them did a wonderful job of competing, some of the teams playing against teams that were quite a lot older than them. Despite this they were very competitive and never gave up. The Under 11 Gold team played exceptionally well, coming third overall in their category which was a great achievement.

Congratulations to all the girls, the teachers and the amazing parents who coached, managed and umpired throughout the day. The girls would certainly not have had such a wonderful experience without the contributions of all these people.

Sports Corner
Damian Pietsch, Sports & Co-Curricular Activities (Junior School)

Singapore Duathlon Championship 2015

Sporty Girls Netball
On Sunday 29 November, 12 students from the Junior School represented AISIM at the annual Biathlon held at Gardens International School. The event comprised of teams of 4 with the school entering one team in the Under 9 category and two teams in the Under 11 category.

The Under 9 team of Eliza Tan, Shin Yi Pan, Rafael Drummond-Costa and Jin Ho Ju performed amazingly well in both the pool and on the track eventually winning Gold for their combined times. It was a fantastic effort against multiple teams from other International Schools across KL.

Both Under 11 teams also performed very well, with the team comprising Yin Jenn Goh, Anna Huggel, Brayden Gorbach and Euan Kniesz coming in a very respectable 7th place. Unfortunately the time obtained by the other Under 11 team of Manami Kuno, Darcy Stevens, Flynn McCarthy Wallace and Tane Dolan wasn't counted due to the structure of the team. They however performed exceptionally well and had an excellent experience.

Congratulations to all the individual competitors and the teams, especially the Under 9s on their fantastic achievement.

Adam Gets Back to Back Podium After Taking Pole

Newly turned 17-year old Adam Khalid, has recently just claimed his maiden Pole position ahead of Australian Jordan Love and Japanese Yuma Shoji in the recent AsiaCup Series event. This event is the Asia's most successful junior driver development program with contestants from all around the world and cars powered by a full carbon FB02 Mygale chassis with 140 bhp BMW engine.

After struggling to find pace in the first event held in August, Adam has bounced back with a strong Pole position in qualifying followed by scoring big points for Race 1 & 2 finishing in 2nd place for both races.

We wish Adam all the very best in the final race of the year.
Performing Arts Corner
Malcolm McCormick, Head of Arts

Creative Arts Week 2015 - SHOWTIME!

In week 9 the AISM Arts students and teachers were all involved in presenting art and performing for the entire week.

The theme this year was 'Showtime!' and one of the highlights was the inclusion of an Artist in Residence program where two circus trainers from Circus Avalon from Newcastle Australia came to work with all Middle School students and Senior Drama students in physical skills and use of circus props. The workshops were fun and exciting and certainly all students enjoyed the experience and continued practicing skills in the Big Top tent in the playground at lunchtime.

The Performing Arts floor and ground floor became an exhibition area for beautiful Visual Arts and Photography work of students from every year level. Here we were treated with and digitally manipulated inspired photography, 3D portraits, batik, self portraits, HSC works and Years 9 and 10 major works.

Drama presentations included Murder Mysteries from Years 9 and 10, fun plays developed by Year 7 along the lines of the circus and showtime theme and of course fun and wonderful the Middle School Production 'The Suessification of Romeo and Juliet'.

On the Music front we had the annual Music Showcase concert which featured intimate, under the spot light performances from our talented music students. This concert also featured our super AISM Orchestra. The week concluded with the annual 'AISM Rocks!' festival which featured an afternoon of rock music making in two venues simultaneously. An exciting event to end a great week.

Congratulations to all of the students, and there were many of them, who participated, created, laughed, shared and challenged themselves during the week.

Also a huge thanks to the Arts staff, Ms Mariasoosay, Miss Kitching, Mr Smith, Ms Goonting, Miss Manders-Jones and Mr Ervin for their hard work and inspiration to our students. Also thanks to the facilities staff for their continued assistance and support.

Selamat Tinggal, Mr McCormick

AISM ROCKS DAY
Mr Grant Smith, Music Teacher

Congratulations to our students on an amazing display of performances in our AISM ROCKS DAY event. It was fantastic to see so many students/parents and staff enjoying the music.

For more photos click here:
Message from Library
Mrs Denise Miller, Library Services Coordinator

The library continues to be a very busy place in these last few weeks of the school year. These are some of the activities during this week.

Year 9W during a Wide Reading session.

Year 4W doing the final publishing of their discussion topics.

Amy Grey, Year 10G experiencing daily life in a classroom for her Work Experience week.

Junior School students reading Christmas stories.
This year, the Years 8 and 9 students have been given the challenge of organising and participating in a Service Learning Activity in an area of need. The aim of the program is to encourage students to seek opportunities within outside organisations and community groups and contribute in some way to make a difference.

Students have developed teamwork, leadership skills, self confidence and have reflected on their role as a responsible and community minded citizens.

Students were required to write a report summarising their activities and reflect on their learning. Fareed, Ghazi and Hanif (Year 8) volunteered at the Kechara Soup Kitchen. Here is a summary of Fareed Mohammad Arashaf’s (8W) report:

“My main Service Learning Activity was volunteering at a soup kitchen called Kechara. There were many tasks that we had to complete such as cooking rice, packing the meals, counting stock and distributing the food to the homeless. Prior to all this we had to attend a meeting to learn the different jobs and how to meet hygiene standards.

For four months, every Saturday we packed 450 packets of rice. That’s 8100 packets of rice! We were astonished by the amount of rice required to feed the different areas of Kuala Lumpur. We were also impressed by how many people turned up each time we arrived to help. This shows how much people care.

We have learnt a lot and to have felt happy to have been able to help people who are less fortunate. We are lucky enough to afford a good life and education and I think we should spread our kindness by donating time and goods to those in need.”

AISM is tremendously lucky to have a wonderful group of auxiliary staff who take great care of us, and help our school to run on a daily basis. As is tradition here at AISM, we would like to present the auxiliary staff with a hamper of non-perishable items at our farewell ceremony, Wednesday 16 December, to thank them for their consistent ‘quiet’ work around the school.

Our new school leaders, will be driving this collection. They would like to call on the support from the AISM community to donate items to be included in the hamper. If you are relocating at the end of term and have items in your pantry you wish to donate, we will happily accept your offers. If you are shopping over the next week and can purchase a few extra canned or packaged goods (rice, noodles, tea, coffee etc) to donate, we would appreciate your support.

Boxes will be placed in the three reception areas - MSS, JS and Main Reception, in which all donated items can be placed.

Thank you for helping us to thank these valued members of our school community!
Each year, the AISM community donates gifts to the Good Shepherd Foundation, a not-for-profit organisation, which supports at risk children, teenagers and families across Malaysia.

Over the past few weeks, our Student Representative Council (SRC) representatives in each grade level have been talking with their classes about the purpose of the Giving Tree and encouraging our students to donate gifts for this appeal. Donations are still being accepted - students can bring the gifts to their homerooms and we will collect and store them until next Thursday.

The Good Shepherd Foundation has indicated the type of items which are most needed and they have been broken these down into specific ages groups, so here are the types of things that students have been collecting:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Age Group:</th>
<th>Type of Gift</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>0 - 24 months</td>
<td>Baby towels, Feeding bottles</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3 - 4 years</td>
<td>Toys, Water bottles, Play dough, Coloured pencils, Sharpeners, Sweets, Slippers / Thongs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5 - 7 years</td>
<td>School bag, Socks, Stationery, Soft toys, Arts and Crafts items</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8 - 11 years</td>
<td>Story books, Board games, Blankets, Towels, Shampoo</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12+ years</td>
<td>Football, T-shirts (boys and girls), Badminton racquets, Puzzle books, Hair Accessories for girls</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

We have been asking students to wrap the presents at home. Students will be given a label by their homeroom teacher to indicate the appropriate age grouping of the gift and whether it is for a boy or a girl.

The Giving Tree Assembly will be help on Thursday 10 December, at 11.45am in the auditorium. We will gather as a school and hear from a representative from the Good Shepherd Foundation where we will learn more about the community service work provided by Good Shepherd, and formally present the donations from the school. We will also learning more about, and recognising other community service projects which have been undertaken by our students during the year.

A big thank you to the support already shown for this appeal, and we look forward to celebrating the great work done by our students for such an important cause next Thursday.

Health

Scoliosis Screening for Junior School

Mrs Mac and Alice, School Nurses

This week the Health Service has sent out scoliosis screening pamphlet and video link to Parents of Years 3, 4 and Year 5. This is to help parents of school children aware of the outward signs of scoliosis.

If you have any concerns about your child’s well being, please consult your family doctor.

If you would like the school nurses to screen your children, please do not hesitate to ask.

For more details click here: Scoliosis Screening  For Video click here: What is Scoliosis?