



Higher Education Fair

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## Upcoming Events

**10th - 18th October 2015**  
School Holiday

**Wednesday, 14th October 2015**  
Public Holiday - Awal Muharram

**21st - 22nd October 2015**  
Parent Teacher Conferences

**Thursday, 5th November 2015**  
Deepavali Assembly

**7th - 8th November 2015**  
Private and International School Fair,  
Mid Valley Convention Centre

**Saturday, 21st November 2015**  
Open Day

## Message from Head of School

**Mrs. Anne Fowles**  
*Head of School*



Dear IGBIS Parents and Community Members,

It is hard to believe that we have already had eight weeks of school. We have continued to battle the haze this week with school closed on Monday. Grades 11 and 12 had the option to attend on Monday and the school was open for all grades on Tuesday, but with students kept inside. Thankfully it looks like the air is cleaner today as I write the newsletter so we hope that our students and staff will have a healthy and relaxing holiday next week.

Our school office is still open during the holiday apart from Wednesday when we are closed for the Awal Muharram holiday.

We have already received a report from the Council of International Schools (CIS) visit last week and the news that we have been accepted as a member of CIS. This is a very good start for us as we embark on the accreditation pathway. Thank you again to the staff, students, parents and board members who met with Dr Parker while he was here.

Another visitor in school this week was the consultant designated by the International Baccalaureate for our Middle Years Programme (MYP). The visitor met with a cross section of staff, parents and students involved in the MYP. She was very positive about the school's curriculum, teaching staff and students and assured us that we are meeting our goals in this regard.

We look forward to seeing all of our parents in school over 21st and 22nd October for the Parent Teacher Conferences. Have a good break next week.

## News from Elementary School

**Mrs. Claire McLeod**  
*Elementary School Principal*



On Wednesday afternoon IGBIS hosted an Under 11s basketball competition that saw eight international schools compete in our Sports Hall. There was much excitement, enthusiasm and cheering from the sidelines by teachers, students and parents from all eight schools.

A highlight was the commitment from our competing students who found the competition hard. At times they were overwhelmed by the speed and accuracy of some opponents, but they persevered. They listened to their coaches, tracked and shadowed their opponents and took every chance to shoot for goal. Everyone saw how their confidence improved as they shot more goals.



One important element to playing competitive sport is understanding how to win and lose gracefully and how to show respect to the other team. I was extremely proud of our students as they lined up at the end of each match to thank their opposing team and coach, followed by passionate IGBIS team chants.

Thank you for signing up for the Parent Teacher Conferences on 21st and 22nd October. Our teachers are keen to share how your child has settled into their new class, discuss their achievements and hear from you on how the transition has been.

School resumes after holidays on Monday 19th October.

Enjoy the break!

## News from Secondary School

### Mr. Lennox Meldrum

Secondary School Principal

It was great to meet with the PVO class representatives this week to discuss plans for the year and for them to provide feedback to members of the school management team. IB learner profile attributes such as *caring*, *open-minded* and *principled* were evident in our discussions, but more importantly the attribute of *communicator* was strongly emphasised. We deeply appreciate the commitment of our PVO class representatives and all members of community who are involved in events throughout the year and the feedback we receive helps us continue to improve at IGBIS. Communication can be difficult to balance as we are all inundated with information sources of varying quality in our lives, however we always have our doors and inboxes open to help clarify any questions or concerns you may have. Our homeroom teachers and PVO class representatives are great first points of contact and can help solve many questions or direct you to the right person for further clarification.



Communication is an essential skill we develop in our student learning experiences as well and we had a few great examples this week. The haze day on Monday gave our DP students and teachers the opportunity to extend their classroom teaching into the virtual world and it was great to be able to go into a classroom and speak to students both face-to-face and online through portals such as Google Hangouts. We know how small the world has become with messaging apps and video calls, so this next step into virtual teaching was not daunting to our experienced staff and amazing students. We also had two groups of universities and colleges come to the school this week, giving our students the chance to hear more about the world of post-secondary education as well as an opportunity to ask specific questions they have about their future. Another well-attended activity this week was the Model United Nations (MUN)

meeting where it was standing room only, as you can see in this photo. I look forward to our students showing their communication skills through MUN as the leaders of tomorrow.

Don't forget that our upcoming Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences are on 21st and 22nd October, starting at 2.00pm on each day. Students will have lunch and depart campus by 1.15pm. You can book in to see our teachers at this website: <https://goo.gl/inFXAw>

Have a great break next week.

## News from the DP Coordinator

The Grade 12 students have been working on their Extended Essays (EE) for close to a year, and the EE draft is due after the break. With the upcoming holiday approaching, the students have a great opportunity to spend some time on their EE in order to meet the draft deadline and give their EE supervisors a comprehensive document. The EE supervisors will read the draft documents and provide feedback to the students before the students complete their final version in February.

The first Parent-Teacher-Student Conferences will take place the week following the break. These type of events are a great opportunity for the school community to meet to discuss important information and to hear feedback regarding our academic and non-academic programs at the school. Hopefully there will be a big turnout on 21st and 22nd October when the conferences take place.

Upcoming Grade 12 Academic Deadlines are:

- \* Extended Essay Draft: 26th - 30th October
- \* Musical Investigation Draft: 9th - 13th November
- \* Math HL, SL and Studies Internal Assessment Draft: 30th November - 6th December

If there are any questions regarding the IBDP at IGBIS please email me at [matthew.marshall@igbis.edu.my](mailto:matthew.marshall@igbis.edu.my).

**Mr. Matthew Marshall,**  
**Diploma Programme Coordinator**





## Grades 6 and 7 Camp

Grade 6 and 7 had an amazing time on the Ipoh camp last week. New friendships were formed, new experiences were made and students gained a great deal of knowledge about conservation, the Orang Asli, water critters, history and leeches! All of the days were jam packed with interesting and exciting activities as well as some fun free time in the swimming pool and playing sports on the field.

Students learnt important skills such as how to remove leeches, how to toast marshmallows, firing a blow pipe and how to classify various living creatures found in a stream. They swam in a waterfall, panned for tin and cleaned up 30kg of trash from the river.

Lots of memories were created on camp and I am sure they will remain a highlight of the year for many students.



Mrs. Rachel Fleury





## Grades 8 and 9 Camp

Grades 8 and 9 students and six teachers were fortunate enough spend a few days in Taman Negara for our memorable camp week. Students took part in a variety of exciting and challenging activities, including a jungle hike, a night walk, a canopy walk, a visit to the Orang Asli village and rapids shooting on the river. Favourite moments for the students were the water fight on the river, looking down from the high canopy treetops and learning how to use a blow pipe in the village. We saw monkeys, a giant red tree squirrel, tapirs, a variety of beautiful birds, colourful butterflies and lot of insects. Students had very comfortable chalets, great food to eat every day and they even managed to survive the whole trip without using any technology! The camp teachers also had a great time and we are all looking forward to camps again next year - thank you to Ms. Heys, Mr. Watters, Mr. Wylie, Ms. Cheu and Mr. Fleury.



**Mrs. Beth Mullin**



## Grades 10 and 11 Camp

This year Grades 10 and 11 went to Penang for their camp. Our first stop on the first day was to Art Street in Penang. Each street seemed to have its own unique story and we got to see a mixture of wrought-iron caricatures and painted walls mimicking life in the city. On our second day of camp the students and teachers got to challenge themselves by hiking up the Penang Hill (seemed more like a mountain at times!). After the 5 km hike up the hill we were happy to take a ride on the cable car down the hill. That afternoon we put some service into action and had a beach clean up outside our hotel. Ms. Settle showed a video on the Great Pacific Ocean Garbage Patch and the students learned about the dangers to our planet from using plastic. On our last day in Penang the students had the opportunity to challenge themselves at the Penang Escape Theme Park. There was a lot of activities, including zip lines and extreme swings. It was a great way to spend the week together, make connections and have some fun learning experiences outside of the classroom.



**Mr. Paul Skadsen**



## Weapons of Mass Distraction

### Distraction, multi-tasking and time management

A parent discussion - led by Geoff Derry Technology Integration Specialist.

**Date: Tuesday, 27th October 2015**

**Venue: Secondary School Library**

**Time: 8.15am - 9.15am**



What does research say about the impact of media multitasking (texting, Facebooking, listening to music) while doing schoolwork? Learn about what the pros say, and a few tools, tips, and tricks that kids can use to stay focused.

This discussion would suit all parents, teachers and adults who have children (Elementary, Secondary, or Tertiary) and are worried about digital distraction.

Please use this link to sign up for the discussion:

**<http://bit.ly/massdistraction>**

As a pre-session activity we would like participants to watch this video before they attend the discussion.

**<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MtLVCpZliNs>**

**Mr. Geoffrey Derry,**  
**[geoffrey.derry@igbis.edu.my](mailto:geoffrey.derry@igbis.edu.my)**  
**Technology Integration Specialist**

## Mental Health Awareness Week, 5th - 9th October

*Mental health problems may affect up to one in ten students in schools. The emotional well-being of our students here at IGBIS and their positive mental health is essential if students are to learn, develop and eventually become adults who can cope with life and its struggles (IBO, May 2013).*



IGBIS participated in the global Mental Health Awareness Week, where counsellors, teachers, and parents equipped the Secondary School with strategies to stay mentally healthy. MYP Approaches to Learning themes were incorporated into the daily activities which included self-care strategies for teachers, daily positive quotes, homeroom activities, useful technology apps and lunchtime sessions such as Yoga, Overcoming Overwhelming Feelings, and Famous Failures.



Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
<b>Mindfulness</b>	<b>Perseverance</b>	<b>Emotional-Management</b>	<b>Self-Motivation</b>	<b>Resilience</b>

Ask your child if they learned anything new about mental health this week! We hope this is not the end of the discussions, but just the beginning.

**Ms. Pauline Davidson,**  
**Career Counsellor**



## College News

For students to get excited about options for higher education and to help them make informed choices, we invited over 50 universities from USA, UK, New Zealand and Australia to visit our students at IGBIS this past week. Students in Grades 9-12 completed a scavenger hunt to research and learn more about careers, courses and countries for further study. We hope to have many more events such as this as our school grows. Representatives shared how impressed they were with the mature approach to learning our students showed and how curious they were about their futures. Exciting times ahead!

**Ms. Pauline Davidson,**  
*Career Counsellor*



## School Events - October 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
			1 Secondary School Camp	2 Secondary School Camp	3	4
5 No School	6 U15 Boys Football Game vs ISKL at ISKL  US & NZ Fair Theatre & Level 7 MPR 8.00am	7 U9 Boys/Girls Bench Ball Game vs HELP at HELP  U11 Boys/Girls Basketball KLISS Tournament at IGBIS	8 Class Rep Meeting and Parent Presentation  U15/U18 Boys Football 7-a side Games at HELP  UK & Australian University Fair Level 7 MPR and Classrooms 12.30pm	9	10	11
12 School Holiday	13 School Holiday	14 Public Holiday – Awal Muharram	15 School Holiday	16 School Holiday	17	18
19	20	21 Parent Teacher Conferences	22 Parent Teacher Conferences	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

### Cafeteria Committee Updates

For the past few weeks, the Cafeteria Committee has met several times to look into designing the student survey, ways to reduce the queue and has communicated with the Cafeteria Operators on balancing the food quantity, quality, and presentation.

We have rolled out the survey to the Secondary School students and all IGBIS staff members. Last week, the survey was also rolled out to Elementary School students with the help of their homeroom teachers. The Committee is in the midst of compiling and analysing the survey data and once this process is completed, the school will make it available for parents to view.

We have also managed to resolve the long queues by deploying more personnel to help at the serving counter. For secondary school, the queue is being split into two; one for ala carte and the other for the pre-plated menu. With these changes the queue has been minimised from a peak of 20 minutes to less than 5 minutes. At the same time, the chef has also increased the portion of the food for Secondary School students. Thank you to everyone involved.



**Mrs. Gigi Lim,**  
*Business Manager*