



Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences

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Secondary School Principal

Upcoming Events

Monday, 26th October 2015

Early Year's Parent Workshop, 8.30am - 9.30am

Tuesday, 27th October 2015

Parent Workshop "Weapons of Mass Distraction,
Distraction, multi-taking and time management,
8.15am - 9.15am

Thursday, 29th October 2015

Early Year's Parent Workshop, 8.30am - 9.30am

Thursday, 5th November 2015

Deepavali Assembly, 2.15pm, Theatre

7th - 8th November 2015

Private and International School Fair,
Mid Valley Convention Centre

Monday, 9th November 2015

School closed for Deepavali

Tuesday, 10th November 2015

Staff Professional Development (no students)

Saturday, 21st November 2015

Open Day

Message from Head of School

Mrs. Anne Fowles
Head of School



Dear IGBIS Parents and Community Members,

It was great to see that nearly all of our parents attended the Parent Teachers conferences during this week. I appreciated hearing many positive comments from parents as they talked about their children's education at IGBIS and the wonderful learning environment provided by our teachers. Likewise our teachers commented very positively about the parents that they met and how supportive they were. It is particularly pleasing to hear about students who have made very good progress since joining the school. Most importantly, students are enjoying their school experience at IGBIS.

We have continued to battle the haze this week with school open some days and not others. Our apologies that sometimes conflicting messages have been circulated as we work with other international schools in developing guidelines while adhering to MOE announcements. We will always endeavour to stay open given that our classrooms are air-conditioned, however we also need to abide by regulations. We do suggest that children are provided with face-masks to wear while they are walking to and from the car park.

You may have seen another health alert for typhoid during this past week. Please check online for causes and symptoms of typhoid. One site you might try is: <http://www.nhs.uk/Conditions/Typhoid-fever/Pages/Symptoms.aspx>

If your family has not been vaccinated for typhoid you should consider visiting your clinic for vaccinations. IGBIS has taken the precaution of checking that our catering contractor has all staff vaccinated – this is completed. We have also offered to arrange vaccines for IGBIS staff.

News from Elementary School

Mrs. Claire McLeod
Elementary School Principal

Parent Teacher Conferences

Once again our Parent Teacher Conferences have been successful for everyone. Our teachers have appreciated learning more about their students and sharing their achievements and how they learn. There will be more conferences in late January; however, please remember you can always make a time to meet with teachers to discuss concerns.



Haze

When school is open and the air pollutant index is high, students will remain inside during recess and lunch. This also applies to before school play on Level 1 and the Physical Education activities in the Sports Hall. Please be aware that students should be directed to the Elementary School Cafeteria before school on these days.

By now you will have received suggestions for home learning

when the school is closed. Whilst it is easier for older students to be set work, younger students will need guidance from their parents or their helpers at home. The suggested activities are not planned to fill the whole day, as we recognise focused individual work is intense and not required for extended periods of time.

Science says eat with your kids

I recently read articles that I am sure you will find enlightening. In one article (<http://bit.ly/dinnertimevocabulary>) researchers found that for young children, dinnertime conversation boosts vocabulary even more than being read aloud to. In our fast paced world there are often times when family meals are replaced with eating in front of the television or iPad or maybe when it is easier for someone else in the family to feed the younger children. Whilst life does not always allow for family dinners every night, planning for a few nights each week would be a good start. Another connection examines the social-emotional-state of young teenagers and how their outlook on life can be positively influenced by family dinners. Click the link for the article: <http://bit.ly/eatwithyourkids>

What's coming up?

26 & 29th October: Early Year's Parent Workshop from 8.30am - 9.30am

5th November: Deepavali Assembly at 2.15pm

9th November: School closed for Deepavali

10th November: School closed for Professional Development for staff.



Look At Our Number Characters!

Greetings everyone and “Selamat Sejahtera”. In Host Nation Studies, Early Years 1 and 2 were excited to learn about Malaysian folklore songs by singing “Anak Itik Tok Wi” song and doing a craft activity.

Kindergarten students have been learning about Rumah Kampung Melayu (Malay Kampung Houses). They enjoyed building their own “kampung” and colouring it similar to a real “kampung”.



In Grade 1 students have been learning to draw the flora and geometry batik motif. They also tried to tie a “Batik Sarung”.

Grade 2 were studying the diversity of flowers and plants in Malaysia. They were doing research using iPads to find the meaning of hibiscus and its colour and why it is an official flower of Malaysia.

Grade 3 have been learning about the monarchy system in Malaysia. Students have spent the last week making a Peninsular Malaysia map, with the students marking and labelling all the states.

Grade 4 inquired into the cultural diversity in Malaysia”. In groups students prepared a presentation about the races and festivities in Malaysia. They also learned the song “Jalur Gemilang” for the Malaysia Day performance.

In Grade 5 students have learned about British occupation in Malaysia. Students made a poster and mind map about the causes of British intervention in Malaya. They also learned the song “Jalur Gemilang” for the Malaysia Day performance.

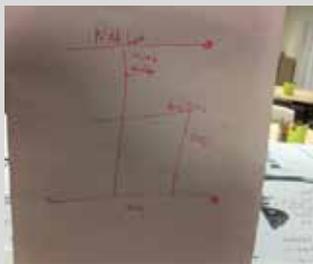


Ms. Dianti Ranofla
Host Nation Teacher



Look At Our Number Characters!

In Grade 2 unit of “All About Me”, we focused on the topics of family members, numbers and colours. One of the interesting activities was to use our bodies to build the Chinese number characters. Students had to make sure everyone in the group lay down at the correct positions and with the proper poses. During the activity, students’ skills of communicating, planning and organizing were challenged. Nina’s group started with drawing a character picture with everyone assigned to a proper position. Then they worked together to figure out the best poses for each group member. Finally the Chinese number character “wu” (five) was formed perfectly! Great job, Grade 2! Here is a snapshot!



Mrs. Nancy Fu
PYP Chinese Teacher



Activities Highlights

Next Week in Sport

Tuesday, 27th October - Under 15 Girls Football vs HELP International School at HELP

Tuesday, 27th October - Under 15 & Under 18 Boys Football vs Fairview International School at IGBIS

Wednesday, 28th October - Under 11 Boys / Girls Basketball at IGBIS

Thursday, 29th October - Under 15 Boys / Girls Football (1st Round Tournament) at Nexus International School

Activities continue indoors throughout these hazy days. We will do our best to offer activities in line with the established recommendations and guidelines. As always, caring for our students health and safety is a top priority.

Ms. Jasmine Brawn,
Athletics & Activities Director



News from Secondary School

Mr. Lennox Meldrum

Secondary School Principal



Growing up in Australia, I had a childhood that seemed like it was an endless summer. While some parts of Australia do experience cold winters and there is snow in small regions, in my home state of Queensland we would occasionally pull on a jumper in “winter” but it rarely restricted our outdoor lifestyle. Coming to live in Malaysia takes me back to my Australian upbringing with the constant joy of never being restricted by the weather, except for needing to keep hydrated and protected from the sun.

Between leaving Australia and arriving in Malaysia, I lived in locations that were at latitudes between 40° and 55° north of the equator. While seeing the colour changes of autumn and the regeneration of life in spring - as well as heavy snow storms in winter - still amazes me, I quickly learned there were new aspects to my job as an educator of which I had to become aware. Just as we ensured students in Australia would wear hats when outside, I now had to make sure students had gloves or mitts on. Instead of stopping water fights on hot days, I had to ensure that students weren’t injured in snowball fights. Reducing student physical activity during heat waves was replaced by assessing whether the roads were too icy for buses to travel to sporting events. As the common saying goes, “same same, but different”.

Another part of far north living I thought was behind me when I moved to Malaysia was a regular discussion with families around this time of year about *seasonal affective disorder*. This can occur during the onset of winter when daylight hours get shorter, outdoor activities are restricted, and there is a change of routine to suit the season. There are physiological treatments that can include phototherapy and change of diet to help increase vitamin D and melatonin levels, however these are often specific to locations where the decrease of sunlight exposure is more extreme. With students, we noticed that they were sometimes more affected when expected events had to be cancelled or a negative malaise was evident in those around them. The added stresses that come along with end of semester assessment also seemed to adversely affect students as the days grew shorter.

The constant grey of the past few weeks has reminded me of the change to winter and how it can affect our moods. It is hard not to be annoyed with the haze that has been disrupting our lives and we all are wishing it away as strongly as possible so we can return to the glorious year-long summer life we enjoy in Malaysia. As a school under the authority of the Malaysian Ministry of Education (MOE), there have been restrictions imposed on us as the MOE struggles with deciding on strategies to implement during this time of anxiety. Governments are working together to ensure this does not occur again so the “2015 haze event” is one we hope is never repeated. For our students we are trying to provide a positive place of learning, ensuring consistency as much as we can, and helping them develop a broad understanding of the situation and how to be resilient when unexpected events occur. We know you are doing the same at home, keeping your children safe and remaining positive so we can all welcome the future sunny days that will soon return to our lives. As we saw at the Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences this week, we have developed an outstanding IGBIS community that is supportive of each other and focussed on the education and lives of our students/your children. Thank you for continuing to be flexible during past few weeks and understanding of our commitment to the well-being of all of our community members.

Take care of yourself and your family.

IGBIS Instrumental Music Academy

The IGBIS Music Academy schedules have been disrupted over the last few weeks due to the haze, holiday, Secondary School camps and other interruptions. These disruptions have all been unavoidable and out of our control. Our tutors are being very flexible and committed to catching up the missed lessons over the coming weeks and months.

With these disruptions your child may have lost a bit of momentum in continuing to practice and therefore I would suggest that you help by encouraging consistent practice schedules at home. With the younger children it is great to sit with them and make the practice experience fun and exciting. For the older students, have them record a practice session and review their progress by listening to their performances.



IGBIS Instrumental Music Ensemble

This ensemble is an after school activity and it was great to see that members of the ensemble from last school year chose to continue in the group along with a number of new members. With the disruption to schedules I would like to encourage the members of the ensemble to practice their individual parts at home before our next rehearsal on Wednesday next week. We have new scores and some really interesting music to play that our community will hear in the future at school events.

Mr. Jon Suffolk,
Performing Arts Teacher

News from the MYP Coordinator

How is my child doing at school? Welcome to ManageBac

It was great to see so many families attending our Parent-Student-Teacher Conferences this week, despite the challenges of school closure due to the haze. At those conferences, while discussing student progress, teachers often referred parents to our online platform, ManageBac.

ManageBac is regarded as the leading online learning platform and information management system for IB schools around the world. It enables efficient curriculum planning, assessment and reporting for teachers and enhances communication between teachers, students and parents.

Our Secondary School teachers plan their units of study using ManageBac, recording the concepts, contexts, statements of inquiry, inquiry questions and specific learning objectives. They plan their units in detail including exactly how and when the learning will be assessed. After student learning has been assessed, teachers record their feedback to students and their levels of achievement on ManageBac.

Students also have their unique log-in accounts on ManageBac which enables them to see personalised overviews of their current units of study, key assessment tasks and dates and individual feedback from their teachers about their progress and achievement. Teachers send messages to their classes through ManageBac and students also receive the daily notices.

Parents have similar levels of access to information as their children. Parents can see overviews of their children's current units of study, key assessment tasks and dates and personalised feedback from teachers to their children about progress and achievement. Parents can also view messages sent to students from teachers, daily notices, check attendance records and view semester report cards online.

We encourage parents to check ManageBac regularly to monitor what their children are learning at school and how well their children are doing on summative assessment tasks. Parents no longer have to wait for semester report cards to find out how their children are progressing at school.



We suggest that parents who are new to ManageBac ask their children to give them a guided tour of the student view of ManageBac. We strongly encourage all parents to check in to ManageBac regularly to remain informed about what their children are doing at school and keep updated on their children's progress and achievement throughout the year.

If you require further support with ManageBac, please contact the Secondary School office and we will see how we can help.

Mr. Phil Clark,
Middle Years Programme Coordinator

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 professionals say, and a few tools, tips, and tricks that students 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
Technology Integration Specialist

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 Early Years Parent Workshop, 8.30am-9.30am	27 Parent Workshop “Weapons of Mass Distraction, 8.15am - 9.15am U15 Girls Football vs HELP at HELP U15 & U18 Boys Football vs Fairview at IGBIS	28 U11 Boys/Girls Basketball at IGBIS	29 Early Years Parent Workshop, 8.30am-9.30am U15 Boys/ Girls Football 1st Round Tournament at Nexus	30	31	