



Kindergarten students performing during the Deepavali Assembly

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Head of Student Services

Upcoming Events

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)

Wednesday, 11th November 2015

Morning of Mathematics Workshop, 8.00am - 9.00am,
Room No. 2-15, Opposite School Clinic, Level 2

Saturday, 21st November 2015

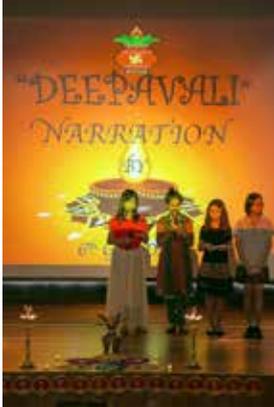
Open Day, 10.00am - 1.00pm

Message from Head of School

Mrs. Anne Fowles
Head of School



Dear IGBIS Parents and Community Members,



What a colourful assembly was held last week to celebrate the Deepavali festival. Ms Usha and her team did a great job of preparing the theatre and student performances. It is hard to say whether the highlight was the staff dance or the Kindergarten students!



IGBIS celebrates all of the major festivals of Malaysia; we feel that it is important for our students to have a strong awareness of the tapestry of our host country and its people. We are fortunate to have Tawfik bin Ismail as a member of our school board - he is the eldest son of Malaysia's second Deputy Prime Minister, Tun Dr Ismail Abdul Rahman. Tawfik is also a member of G25, a group of eminent Malaysians of different disciplines who wish to preserve the philosophical intent of their forefathers in seeking a moderate path for Malaysia as a multiracial society. Several articles with this as a theme are currently being penned for Malaysian newspapers.

The Kuala Lumpur 24 Hour Race for 2015 will be hosted by IGB International School, taking place next weekend from 9am on November 14th, to 9am on November 15th. Groups of inspired young students from across Kuala Lumpur, Hong Kong and Singapore are organising the 24 hour race with the vision to challenge their generation to lead global action against modern slavery. They are a youth-led organisation whose ultimate goal is to eradicate modern slavery through social entrepreneurship and youth engagement and awareness. Over 1000 young people are expected to be involved with team members taking part in running over an internal circuit. During the race there will also be entertainment and food stalls on site. It will be an excellent opportunity for our school community to visit and support the students. Apart from our students, members of the school staff and our Parent Volunteer Organisation are assisting in many ways. Come along and enjoy the 24 hours of activities!

A reminder that school is closed on Monday and Tuesday for Deepavali, though our academic staff will be in school for professional development on Tuesday. Happy Diwali / Deepavali!

News from Elementary School

Mrs. Claire McLeod
Elementary School Principal



Over the last few weeks we have offered two information sessions for parents. Early Years parents found the two Growing Up Fast sessions to be extremely valuable. Our Elementary School Counsellor Ms Fabian and our Early Years teachers Ms Deb, Ms Sally and Ms Richards presented strategies and suggestions for parents to try at home. These sessions were particularly important for those parents who are away from their home town where they would normally have family and good friends to help guide them along the parenting pathway. One parent wrote, "It was absolutely fabulous and all of the parents are talking about how valuable it was and how they have been able to start implementing some of the strategies and suggestions at home. There has already been some success stories!"

Thirty interesting parents joined the IBPYP and Assessment information session presented by IBPYP Coordinator Mr Millward. Parents enjoyed the tasks they were provided to help them understand the meaning and value of the IB Learner Profile and the different ways we assess our students.

We are fortunate to have experienced teachers who can provide such valuable information for individual parents or in groups.

News from PYP

Delving Deeper Into Culture, Beliefs and Values: Visual Arts Collaboration with Grade 3

Grade 3 for their current unit of inquiry under the transdisciplinary theme 'Where we are in place and time' are exploring the big idea that 'innovations from past civilisations have an influence on the present'.



This week they have identified the key features of past civilisations. One of those features are belief systems. As a collaborative unit with visual arts the Grade 3 students have been working with artefacts. The students were curious about the tiki from New Zealand and wanted to find out more after they had used the thinking routine *I see, I think, I wonder*.

This generating interest and excitement about civilisations belief systems is in the early stages of the inquiry, however, it has already captured the student's interest and the depth of student thought already is wonderful to see.



There are greater connections to be made and Ms. Nan is working closely with Ms. Ostiguy and Mr. Marshall to guide students to uncover these further. It will be interesting to see where the unit goes, the connections they make and what they will be creating in their visual arts lessons. Once again this is another example of the power of collaboration between PYP teachers to create learning opportunities that are engaging, significant, relevant and challenging.

Mr. Simon Millward,
Primary Years Programme Coordinator

Chinese Lesson

In Chinese, Early Years and Kindergarten students are learning about fruits, body parts and numbers. We have a number of different activities that include the recognition and writing of words and singing and dancing to help the students learn the new vocabulary.



The children are making their own fruit with scrap paper and making their own fruit stalls. We are in a mini fruit market!



Grade 4 students have learnt new vocabulary to describe their home. They have constructed their own dream house and are rehearsing how to sell it. The students have found this a great way to learn the new vocabulary, practice how to pronounce the words and fluently speak in sentences. Please visit the Chinese lounge on Level 3 to vote for your favorite house.



Ms. Hwei Yin,
Elementary School Chinese Teacher

Morning of Mathematics Workshop

We are pleased to offer a Morning of Mathematics workshop for parents of children in Grades 1 - 5, presented by our Elementary School Maths Coordinator, Ms Shireen Blakeway.

Mathematics may be taught in a very different way to when many of you were at school. By attending this workshop you will hear Ms Shireen Blakeway explain the way in which we teach Mathematics within the PYP through an inquiry approach.

Please join us and find out how your child is learning and how you can help at home.

Who: Parents of Grades 1 - 5 students

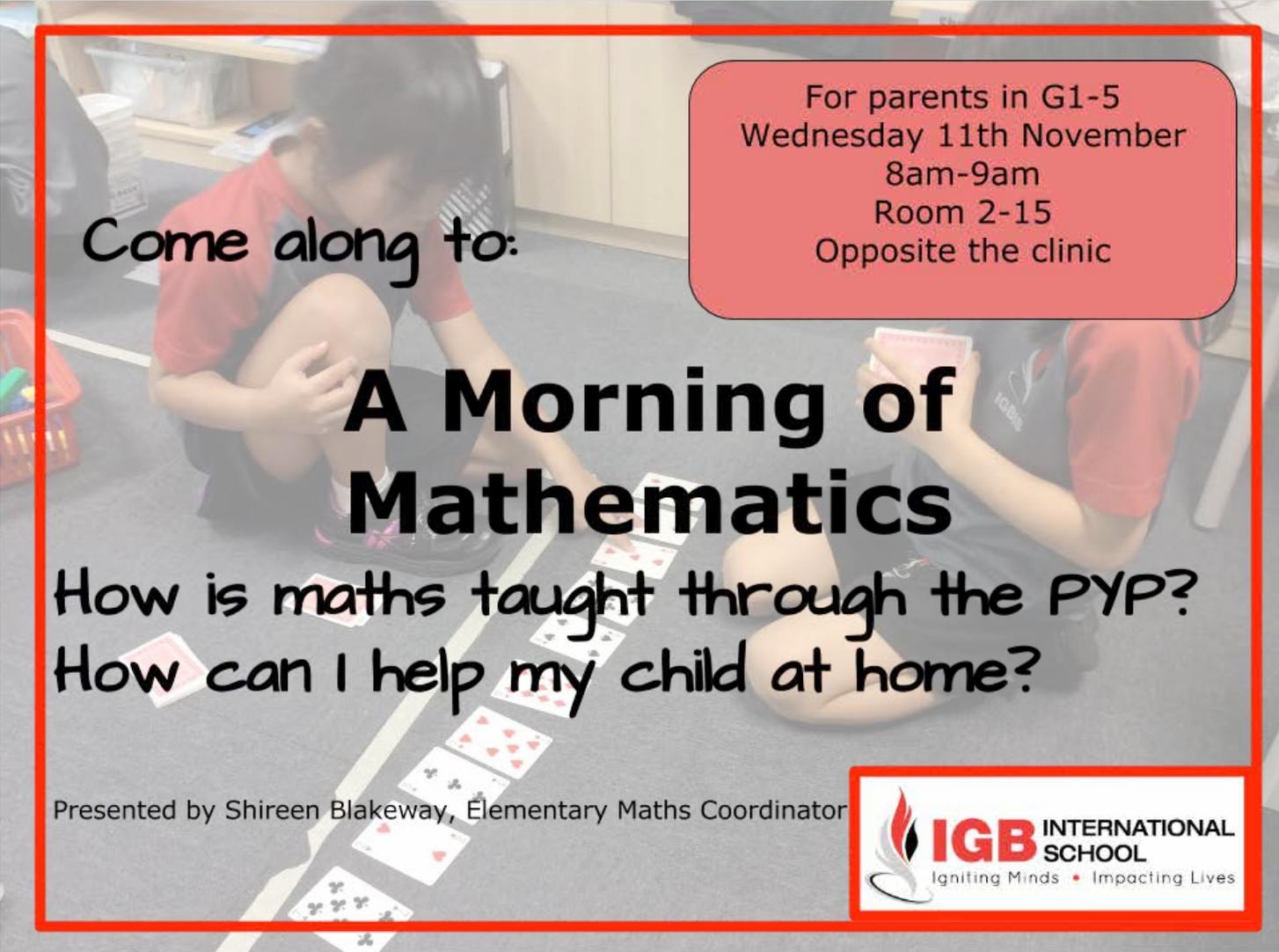
When: Wednesday 11th November from 8.00am - 9.00am

Where: Room No. 2-15, Opposite School Clinic, Level 2

To register for this workshop please open: <http://bit.ly/morningmaths>

Wed 11th Nov: A Morning of Mathematics for Parents in G1-5

Wed 25th Nov: A Morning of Mathematics for Parents in EY-KG



Come along to:

For parents in G1-5
Wednesday 11th November
8am-9am
Room 2-15
Opposite the clinic

A Morning of Mathematics

How is maths taught through the PYP?
How can I help my child at home?

Presented by Shireen Blakeway, Elementary Maths Coordinator



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News from Secondary School

Mr. Lennox Meldrum

Secondary School Principal

Last week we hosted the #LightForFreedom event, a gala dinner event organised by the Running Against The Traffik organisation as a lead-up to the 24 hour race we are hosting on our campus next weekend. It was wonderful to see the energy and excitement in the students and participants at the event as they prepared the drama room, held a press conference, welcomed and entertained VIP guests, ran a tight programme, and after it was all over stayed on to clean and pack up the room (even though some of them had tests and assessment pieces due the next day!). The speakers and videos were inspirational and opened our minds to the vast problem of modern day slavery and human trafficking.

As an educator, we aim to inspire our students every day in many ways. As you can understand, this can be an exhausting process so we look for ways to refill our own "inspiration tanks". Technology



has been very helpful as we can link up with similar educators or watch TED talks or other wonderful clips that help lift us. We also have a range of inspirational figures in our past and at the #LightForFreedom event I spoke of Kurt Hahn, one of my personal educational heroes. As well as being an inspiration for the CAS programme within the IBDP, Kurt Hahn founded Outward Bound, the Duke Of Edinburgh Award, and the first United World Colleges in Wales and Singapore. Many of the aspects we embed in our education at IGBIS - international-mindedness, resilience, responsibility, service, confidence, tenacity, and perseverance - were promoted by Kurt Hahn throughout his life. The one area he always put above all, however, was compassion, and I am so proud to see our students and teachers living this in all that they do.

If you are able to make it to the school next weekend, I look forward to meeting up with you.



News from the DP Coordinator

It's essential in a challenging academic programme like the IBDP that students use their time productively, in order to plan ahead and complete assignments on time and with care. In most cases effective organisational skills need to be learned and improved over time. At IGBIS self-management and organisational skills are taught in PYP and as students progress through MYP and into the DP, these skills are refined and improved. This progression of skills through the three IB programmes is a good example of how students who take PYP and MYP are well prepared for the rigours of the DP programme. According to the Australian Council for Educational Research, in a recent study that compared DP outcomes among students who completed the MYP and students who took a curriculum other than the MYP, "students who completed the MYP scored higher than non-MYP participants."

The Grade 12 students recently completed their Extended Essay (EE) drafts, which were submitted to their EE supervisors for feedback. The supervisors will need 2 - 3 weeks to go through the essays and complete detailed feedback on how the essays can be improved. The students will meet with their supervisor individually to go through the feedback and discuss how to move forward with the EE in order to complete the assignment for the final deadline in February.

If there are any questions regarding the IBDP please email me at matthew.marshall@igbis.edu.my

Mr. Matthew Marshall,

Diploma Programme Coordinator

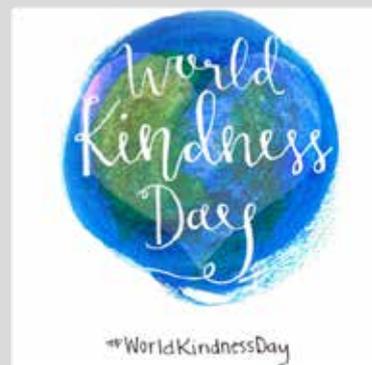


Counselling Corner

World Kindness Day is on Friday November 13th which is a "global celebration dedicated to paying-it-forward and focusing on the good" (RAK). At IGBIS students will be taking part by sharing positive notes, letters of gratitude, considering words to raise spirit and reflect on what more we could all do to increase kindness in our community and world. It would be wonderful to have these conversations happening at home as well! For more ideas, please check out the Random Acts of Kindness Website to learn more:

<https://www.randomactsofkindness.org/world-kindness-day>

Ms. Pauline Davidson & Ms. Natalie Fabian,
School Counsellors



Weapons of Mass Distraction

Last week I ran a parent discussion on digital distraction. We started the session with a discussion about how we as adults use and get distracted by technology and the messages we are giving our children. We used this video as a stimulus (<https://youtu.be/MtLVCpZiINs>)

We then spent some time looking at what research there is about the impact of media multitasking (texting, Facebooking, listening to music) while doing schoolwork. In summary there is no such thing as multitasking; that means if children have multiple tabs open or are switching between homework and something else they are nowhere near as productive as if they were fully engaged or focussed on a single task. This also prompted a discussion about the myth of multitasking and how we can get this message across to our children.

We finished the session with some advice how we can help our children to manage distractions on their own, which is a much more effective solution than us managing their behaviour, computers and devices for them.

The three main pieces of advice given were:

1. Experiment with your children about strategies for avoiding distraction work. It might mean you need to do the experiment as well and model the desired behaviour.
2. Put some distance between the distraction and the user. This might mean putting a phone in another room, muting it and turning it over or programming in some time for tech breaks when concentrating (work for 25 mins, 5 min tech break).
3. Encourage your children to use some self regulating apps like 'Self Control' (<http://visitsteve.com/made/selfcontrol>), 'Rescue Time' (<https://www.rescuetime.com>) or 'Focus Booster' (<https://www.focusboosterapp.com>) to help them manage their own distractions.

We also spoke about the fact that with younger children we need to be more hands on, then as the children get older we pass more of the responsibility and ownership to them.

It was a very productive discussion with lots of ideas and solutions being shared. The main message most people walked away with was that technology is here to stay and we need to teach our children how to deal with distractions. We also ran a student session in Grades 6, 7 and 8 on Wednesday morning empowering them to manage the things that distract them.



Make sure you check out Common Sense media for heaps of great parenting information about computers, phones and other technology.

<https://www.common Sense media.org/>

Link to parent resources from the presentation

<https://goo.gl/68lh4S>

Mr. Geoffrey Derry,
geoffrey.derry@igbis.edu.my
Technology Integration Specialist

Student Cafeteria Updates

We would like to thank all parents, students and staff who responded to our notification to top up their cashless card last week. Whilst we understand some of our students will need more time to settle the top up, we would also like to inform parents that we noted some of our students are buying lunches for their friends. As much as we would like to advise them to seek permission from their parents, it is unfortunate that at times it's too many of them to be held up for the caterer to check on each and every student. Hence, we would request parents to kindly check with your children about sharing their cashless card with their friends and we will leave this to parents to guide their children in handling their expenditures.

Beginning next week, we will start our Panini Sandwich Counter in the Secondary School cafeteria and a separate queue line will be formed. This will help us to split the queue line to further reduce the waiting time and also increase the options of the cafeteria food for our students and staff.

Yesterday, we had a fruitful conversation with the PVO Class Representatives meeting about the cafeteria services and one of the outcomes from the meeting was to include class representatives in our cafeteria committee meeting. Some suggested an initiative to beautify the ambience of the cafeteria and the possibility to get the students and parents to be involved in this. I can see many good suggestions will be brought forward to promote positive change in our cafeteria services and we are looking forward to another positive milestone for our school.

Mrs. Gigi Lim,
Business Manager



#LightForFreedom

On Thursday 6th November, a large group of IGBIS Secondary School students and peers from the KL Organizing Committee for the 24 Hour Race showed up to set up and run the #LightForFreedom Fundraising Gala Dinner that was held in the IGBIS drama rooms.

Filled with candles, fairy lights, tables and inspired students, numerous guests enjoyed enlightening and motivating speeches from the KL Organising Committee, Anderson from SUKA and, most notably, Dato' Ambiga Sreenevasan. Over RM10,000 was raised from this event with the help of everyone at the event. It was truly inspiring to see a group of students band together to motivate others to help them with their cause - fighting modern slavery.



The culminating event, a product of months of hard work, will be held on the IGBIS campus this coming weekend. The 24 Hour Race will run from 9.00am on 14th November through to 9.00am on 15th November. Students from schools across Malaysia will run as in teams with the aim to raise money for grassroots charities fighting against modern slavery as well to raise awareness of this important global issue. We look forward to members of our IGBIS community to come along and support all of the runners.

School Events - November 2015

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
						1
2	3 Parent Information Session - PYP Assesment, 8.15am - 9.15am, Multipurpose Room Level 2	4	5 Deepavali Assembly 2.15pm Theatre	6	7 Private & International School Fair (PISF) Mid Valley Exhibition Centre	8 Private & International School Fair (PISF) Mid Valley Exhibition Centre
9 School Closed for Deepavali	10 School Closed for Deepavali	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21 Open Day 10.00am – 1.00pm	22
23	24	25 A Morning of Mathematics for Parents in EY-KG	26	27	28	29



IGB International School
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