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#### Upcoming Events

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Message from Head of School

Mrs. Anne Fowles  
Head of School

Dear IGBIS Parents and Community Members,

We are setting up a system for IGBIS families to access the school field from 9am to 10 am and again from 6pm to 7pm on Saturdays. This will be for IGBIS students supervised by their parents. We hope to start this from Saturday December 12. Further information about the sign up for use of the field will be provided next week.

Our academic staff have been reviewing a number of school polices and practices including assessment, language and academic integrity. These will be shared with students and parents over the coming weeks.

It is now just one week until the Christmas holiday and preparations have been made for the Christmas assembly on Wednesday, December 9. The assembly will take place in the morning this time, commencing at 8.20 am. Everyone will be following colour themes of red and green for the day. Please come along and join in what looks to be a spectacular assembly.

News from Elementary School

Mrs. Claire McLeod  
Elementary School Principal

During this semester there has been many different activities for our Elementary School students to join. Students have mostly mixed with similar aged students. However, we have offered a mixed age group activity called Big Brothers and Big Sisters and the aim has been to connect, care and communicate.

Ms Davidson, Ms Natalie and Ms Lisa explained the activity:

Big Brothers and Big Sisters is an activity that has been running after school this semester. The activity stretches across the whole school where, each Thursday afternoon, students from Grade 1 through to Grade 12 come together to care, communicate and connect with each other. Next semester, this will also be open to Kindergarten children. Older students have been helping our younger students with homework, reading, making videos, drawing and playing games. Younger students have benefited by having older students around to model positive behaviour and build their self-confidence. Older students have learned leadership and facilitation of activities. And all of the students have got to know more friendly faces to wave to around school. This activity will be open again for Semester 2 and we are looking for more big and little brothers and sisters to join our community!

Christmas Assembly

Please join us at the Christmas Assembly next Wednesday morning at 8.20am in the Theatre. I am sure you will enjoy the entertaining and informative performances. Students and teachers are asked to wear something red and green on that day; school uniform is not required.

Holidays

School will finish on Thursday 10th December at the normal dismissal times and will reopen after the holidays on Monday 4th January.
Hour of Code at IGBIS

“In fifteen years we will be teaching programming, just like reading and writing and wondering why we didn’t do it sooner.” - Mark Zuckerberg

The Hour of Code is a worldwide learning event that reaches tens of millions of students in over 180 countries. Coding or programming a computer is an important literacy just like reading, writing and mathematics. The majority of new jobs created (and many jobs that don’t yet exist) usually have something to do with computers. It is important to know how computers work as well as how to use them.

Next week students at IGBIS will be participating in the Hour of Code. Students as young as Early Years will be coding (programming) a computer or iPad. They will use programs like Scratch and Light bot as well as online tutorials to create games, animations, solve problems and explore computers and computer language. The students will work at their own pace learning how computers work. Some classes have already started and the students love it.

You too can participate in the Hour of Code at home. The easiest way is to go to code.org and work through the tutorials. There are Frozen themed tutorials, Star Wars, Minecraft and even higher level game making tutorials. This is a great family computer activity to do with your kids.

It is impressive to see some teachers exploring how they could use coding in their regular and fits into the IB philosophy and IGBIS way of doing things.

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

News from PYP

The importance of field trips

Last year when I was on a field trip I was talking to some Grade 2 students and they informed me that this was the first time they had been on a field trip. I was surprised, as within the PYP, field trips are an essential learning experience.

Field trips serve different purposes, for example at the start of a new unit of inquiry a field trip may ‘tune students in’ to the new unit and provide a springboard to new learning.

At other times they may feature at the end of a unit and offer opportunities to put their learning into practice, for example the Grade 5s have just completed a ‘Sharing the Planet’ unit where the focus has been on peace and conflict resolution. Their trip last week to Gopeng was primarily an ‘adventure’ experience where they were exposed to a variety of activities that may have taken them out of their comfort zone and they had to work closely with other students to carry out tasks. The teachers commented that they witnessed a number of examples of students proactively using strategies to avoid conflict and examples of reactively using strategies to independently solve issues of conflict.

The Grade 4s field trip last week was designed as a stepping stone for future field trips where students slept away from home (albeit in school) and were engaged in day trip experiences. The highlight for me was the Thursday trip to Selangor State Park where the students had to build a fire and prepare and cook food for themselves and the adults in their group. Afterwards they had to navigate (walk) in the river. For many the whole 3 days was a new experience; sleeping away from home and engaging in outdoor (physical) types of activities. It was certainly a good foundation to build from as in Grade 5 they will be a little further away.

Whilst it would be wonderful to have a field trip for every unit of inquiry, it is not always possible. Field trips are designed to add value to units and we are very thoughtful about the reasons behind our trips. The students have been enjoying and learning from their field trips this year and we hope to develop and continue this trend.

Mr. Simon Millward,
Primary Years Programme Coordinator
News from Secondary School

Mr. Lennox Meldrum
Secondary School Principal

In an international school community, we have an amazing blend of backgrounds and experiences in each of our classrooms. These are beneficial in so many ways and sometimes when teachers are questioned on how they include international-mindedness in their lessons they have to stop and think about when it isn’t included! Having an Indian student explain how the German public transport system works (based on when they lived in Munich) while a Malaysian student compares it to Venezuela’s mass-transit network is one of those special moments in a class where everyone is learning from each other (including the teacher learning new information!). How is science research viewed and funded in different countries, what artistic history do students bring from their cultures, what is climate appropriate for particular countries when designing outdoor products - there is so much we learn from each other every day.

For students new to the international school environment, as we near extended holidays it can also be an emotional time. Holidays are traditionally a time to see other family members or to have social time outside of school with friends. Sometimes distance or other factors can change how a family spends their holiday, or perhaps a student's good friend travels for a few weeks. This can be disorienting for a child or enhance loneliness if this is the first time they have experienced this. We have networks within our school of other families who have probably gone through similar circumstances and can help with ideas and suggestions - please contact your PVO class representative if you sense that your child is having a difficult time in the holidays. Our school counsellors are also willing to offer support and advice during the next week of school.

We are looking forward to the Christmas Assembly next Wednesday morning from 8.20am to 9.00am in the Theatre. The theme for the day is red and green so we hope to see as many students, teachers, and parents celebrating in these colours.

Have a wonderful weekend.

IGBIS Instrumental Music Academy

SEMESTER 2 REGISTRATIONS OPEN THIS FRIDAY 4th DECEMBER

The registrations for semester 2 will open this Friday 4th December. All registrations will be online and parents may access the registration form through the Splash page. Students registered for Semester 1 must also complete a Semester 2 registration form. All future correspondence to parents will be via their IGBIS gmail accounts once the registrations have been completed. Please remember that you will be sent an invoice once your registration has been received.

All the necessary information is contained on the Splash page or you may contact me via email if you have further questions (jon.suffolk@igbis.edu.my).

New students are very welcome to join the program.

Strings, Strings, Strings
This week I am focussing on our string program. Mr Chew Yew Chee is our String Tutor and is doing an excellent job with our students. He is a very experienced teacher and previously performed with the Malaysian Philharmonic Youth Orchestra.

He has assembled a group of Elementary school students who will be performing next week at the Christmas Assembly. A number of the students began by hiring an instrument and have progressed to purchasing their own instruments and continuing to develop their musical skills.

Mr Yew Chee has plans for the future development of the program including having more students and establishing a regular ensemble in the school. He is also encouraging his students to undertake the Trinity College of London practical examinations next year. This is an excellent initiative and we hope that IGBIS can become an examination centre for the Trinity College examinations in the future.

Mr. Jon Suffolk,
Performing Arts Teacher
Assessment in the IB Middle Years Programme (MYP) is different from the type of assessment most of us experienced when we attended school and may be unfamiliar to families who recently joined IGBIS. In Grades 6-10 we do not measure success in terms of percentages or A to F grades, we do not talk about passing and failing grades and we do not compare students with each other to decide who is top or bottom of the class.

The MYP approach to assessment recognizes the importance of assessing both the process and the products of learning. Assessment is an important part of the teaching and learning process. Teachers use regular, ongoing assessment to build a picture of a student’s progress, achievements, skills, knowledge and understanding.

Assessment supports and encourages effective teaching and learning. Assessment includes:
- Pre-assessment: identify what students already know to clarify the starting point for teaching and learning.
- Formative assessment: ongoing assessment helps the teacher plan for ongoing needs of students and plan next steps for teaching and learning.
- Summative assessment: find out how far students have progressed during and at the end of a unit of study.
- Self and peer assessment: students make assessments about their own progress and that of their peers.

Teachers may use some or all of the following assessment strategies and tools: rubrics; observations; quizzes, tests or examinations; performance assessments; investigations; checklists; process-focused assessments; essays; anecdotal notes; laboratory reports; continuums; open-ended tasks and presentations.

As students progress through Grades 6-10, they complete many units of study in each subject area. The length of units varies from unit to unit and between subjects. Teachers plan a variety of formative and summative assessment tasks and the students receive individual feedback that guides them towards improvement.

Students complete summative assessment tasks which are evaluated against four criteria in each subject. The four criteria are broadly similar across all subjects, although they vary slightly according to the specific requirements of individual subjects. In general terms, the criteria are used to assess the following areas:
- Criterion A: a student’s knowledge, understanding and ability to analyse ideas in a subject.
- Criterion B: a student’s ability to investigate, organise and develop ideas in a subject.
- Criterion C: a student’s ability to effectively communicate ideas in a subject.
- Criterion D: a student’s ability to use, apply, evaluate and reflect upon ideas in a subject.

Each criterion is divided into eight achievement levels with clear descriptions of what is required in order to achieve at each level. The achievement levels and descriptions are presented in a tabular format (or rubric) so that teachers and students can easily match achievement on a task with the criterion level descriptions. This process sounds complicated, but students quickly become proficient at reading and understanding assessment rubrics and use them before submitting an assessment task. Students also use the assessment rubrics to identify their areas of success and what they need to do in order to improve.

IGBIS Secondary School teachers plan their units of study using ManageBac, our online learning platform and information management system. The unit planning details exactly how and when the learning will be assessed, including which criteria are to be assessed and the assessment rubrics that are to be used. Students and parents can log-in to ManageBac to access unit overviews and assessment details. After student learning has been assessed, students and parents can access personalised feedback from the teachers on ManageBac, including levels of achievement.

Mr. Phil Clark,
Middle Years Programme Coordinator
IGB International School has had a great inaugural season with the Kuala Lumpur International School Sport League this year fielding seven teams in four different sports. Our students have competed and improved throughout the season coming up with some great games and finishes at the end of the season. Thank you to all our athletes and coaches for their time and dedication and for representing our school with class in the greater community. We are proud of all our athletes. Here are our KLISS finishes this season:

KLISS Season 1 Finishes, 2015-2016

U9 Boys Bench Ball - 3rd in Plate Final
U9 Girls Bench Ball - 2nd in Plate Final
U11 Boys Basketball - 4th in Plate Final
U11 Girls Basketball - 3rd in Plate Final
U15 Boys Football - Undetermined in Plate Final
U15 Girls Football - 2nd in Plate Final
Whole School X-Country Team - 7th Overall

Our Top 20 Individual Finishes @ KLISS X-Country

Grade 4 - Lee Zi Xuan - 18th in Yr 5 Event
Grade 5 - Kosei Fukunaga - 7th in Yr 6 Event
Grade 9 - Hugo Nootebos - 7th in U15 Boys Event
Grade 9 - Kiti Lim - 11th in U15 Girls Event
Grade 11 - Edbert Loh - 8th in U18 Boys Event
Grade 12 - Simran Malik - 17th in U18 Girls Event

Ms. Jasmine Brawn,
Athletics & Activities Director

Activities Highlights

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School Events - December 2015