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Upcoming Events

Friday, 22nd January 2016
End of semester one & reports

Tuesday, 26th January 2016
First day of semester two

Wednesday and Thursday, 27th - 28th January 2016
Parent-Teacher Conference

HAPPY NEW YEAR 2016
Message from Head of School

Mrs. Anne Fowles
Head of School

Dear IGBIS Parents and Community Members,

Happy New Year! I hope that you had a relaxing break over the holidays and found time to catch up with family and friends.

It’s hard to believe that our Diploma Programme students are sitting internal exams and semester one is about to end. Assessment is a crucial part of the learning process aimed at determining the learners’ levels of knowledge, skills and understanding. It is used to ascertain what learners already know and can do, identify their learning needs, provide feedback on progress and to determine a level of achievement. The school assesses students through a variety of assessment strategies and tools and exams are just one of the many tools that are used. Please read more on our school’s assessment policy and practices in this week’s newsletter.

News from Elementary School

Mrs. Claire McLeod
Elementary School Principal

On return to school on Monday it was lovely to see how refreshed our students were and how they were genuinely happy to see their friends and their teachers. The first part of the morning for most classes was recapping everyone’s holiday highlights.

Assessment

Over the last few months our staff have reviewed a number of policies and these will be shared with parents. Assessment is a vital component to teaching; it informs our teaching and helps direct more specific activities to support student learning. Assessment in PYP includes pre-assessment to identify what students already know, formative assessment which is ongoing, summative assessment to find how far the students have progressed, and peer and self assessment. All of the five essential elements of the PYP are assessed.

An important aspect of PYP assessment is that it is continuous and ongoing throughout the year. Assessment may include some or all of the following tools and strategies: observations, anecdotal notes, checklists, rubrics, open-ended tasks, performance assessments, process-focused assessments, continuums or exemplars. Assessment strategies and tasks vary depending on the age of the student.

Communication

Recently we have noticed that a number of families are not regularly checking their @igbis.edu.my email address. The school has confirmed that all communication will now be via this school email address, therefore I ask parents to check this account regularly or, even better, have it feed into your personal or work accounts.

Later this month our students from Grades 1-5 will perform in our Morning of Music - further information about these performances will come out soon.

Until next time.

From Finance Office

This is just a friendly and general reminder that first day of semester two starts on 26 January 2016. If you have not made necessary tuition and additional payments, we request that you will arrange to do this as soon as possible. If payment has been made, please accept our thanks.

Credit Limit For Cashless Card

Further to IGB International School’s Weekly Newsletter - Issue 53, Week 5, October 2015, this is just a general reminder that the credit (negative) limit for cashless card is capped at RM30.00. Hence, kindly be reminded to top up to ensure there is sufficient value on the card.
PYP Bahasa Malaysia

“Selamat Sejahtera” dan “Selamat Tahun Baharu”. All grades are continuing with their second unit in Host Nation. In Early Years 1 and 2, students are learning about the body. They have been learning to identify the names of five body parts and use the correct vocabulary. Kindergarten students have been learning about animals and marine life. They had enjoyed singing the folklore song “Lompat Si Katak Lompat” in Malay. Grade 1 students have enjoyed learning about celebrations in Malaysia. They have learnt to identify the names of kuih tradisional Malaysia and had enjoyed tasting kuih tradisional that have been served during Hari Raya, Tahun Baharu Cina, Deepavali and Hari Natal.

Grade 2 students have studied traditional Malaysian folktales. They are continuing to learn the names of folktales characters such as Pak Belang, Sang Kancil, Sang Buaya, Sang Arnab, Sang Monyet and Sang Kura-kura. They enjoyed watching the movie, “Sang Kancil dan Sang Buaya”. Grade 3 students have studied tourism in Malaysia. They have learnt the unique differences between places in Malaysia and with other countries by presenting using iMovie.

Grade 4 students have been learning about food production in Malaysia. They have learned to use 10 adjectives such as sedap, mahal, kaya, and banyak when they were creating a poster about food production. Grade 5 have researched and learned about different industries in Malaysia. They had enjoyed exploring and using the correct Malay vocabulary to describe the key features of a particular industry and learned the names of many different products produced in Malaysia.

Ms. Dianti Ranofla
Host Nation Teacher

Chinese Language at IGBIS

In the unit of school community and school life, Grade 4 and Grade 5 students concentrated on mapping the school and describing our facilities. We took a whole school tour first, during which students recorded the locations of all the classrooms and other facilities such as the fitness centre, sports hall, cafeteria and swimming pool. After the campus tour, students started to make the map of school with all the facilities labelled in Chinese. It was exciting work and the students showed great interest, passion and effort.

During the process of mapping the school, we designed a school promotion presentation as our unit summative project. Students worked in teams and conducted role plays as a school marketing member and as an interested parent. The conversation was about introducing the school’s facilities to the parent. The students’ skills of communication, cooperative planning and oral presentation in Chinese were all challenged in this unit and they enjoyed the whole learning process.

Ms. Nancy Fu
PYP Chinese Teacher
Welcome to 2016. I hope your holidays were relaxing and you were able to catch up with friends and family. While the first morning after a longer holiday can be a shock to the system, it didn’t take long for our students and teachers to get back into a regular routine.

I have particularly enjoyed seeing the wide range of assessment items taking place across the Secondary School as semester one nears an end. While our assessment is continuous throughout the school year (and able to be followed by our parents on ManageBac), the end of semester usually means units are being completed across most subjects and final assessment pieces are being submitted. In a more traditional school setting, this is when an exam week (or longer) can be expected and for our Diploma Programme students this is usually what also occurs as we prepare them each semester for their final exams at the end of Grade 12. However, for our Middle Years Programme students, the end of a unit doesn’t always mean an exam - sometimes, a unit doesn’t even contain an exam or the exam may be conducted earlier in the unit. A final assessment piece may be a reflection on a completed product or project, it could be a solo or group presentation or performance, or it might be an extended piece of writing based on a particular genre. The assessment piece chosen depends on what learning objectives the teacher is measuring the student against and how these contribute to the broader development of their conceptual and contextual learning and understanding. Content plays a part in this, of course, but it is made relevant through effective learning experiences.

Our assessment policy at IGBIS contains the following principles of assessment by which our teachers are guided when designing appropriate tasks:

1. Assessment is integral to collaborative planning, teaching, learning and reflection.
2. Assessment for and of student learning builds upon prior knowledge and experience.
3. Assessment data is analysed to inform teaching and learning.
4. Assessment of student progress is developmentally appropriate and differentiated according to student needs.
5. Assessment policy and practices are made clear to students and parents.
6. Teachers use a range of formative and summative assessment strategies and tools, including for example peer and self assessment.
7. Students receive personal timely and constructive feedback with the opportunity to use it to practice, reflect and revise.
8. Reporting to parents is meaningful and varies according to audience and purpose.
9. Assessment and communication of student progress are aligned with the requirements of each IB programme and with the school’s philosophy and mission.
10. Systems for the recording and reporting of student progress and achievement are aligned with the requirements of each IB programme.

In upcoming newsletters we will further information on how our assessment policy is applied throughout the school.

Living in an international community that has holidays around the globe, please be aware that during travel there is a chance of children or adults picking up an illness and then possibly passing it on. Please monitor the health of your children and contact our school nurse if you have any concerns.

Have a wonderful weekend.

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IGBIS Instrumental Music Academy

Semester 2 Registration

Semester 2 registrations are now open. Thank you to those parents who have already completed the new registration forms online. Invoices will soon be emailed to parents using their IGBIS email accounts. A reminder that new and existing students must register using the online documents for Semester 2.

https://sites.google.com/a/igbis.edu.my/igbis-instrumental-music-academy/registration

Guitar Tuition

This week I will focus on the guitar. The guitar and bass guitar are very popular instruments and our tutor Mr Adil Rahim is a very experienced teacher. He teaches at both IGBIS and the Bentley Music Academy. Mr Adil enjoys all forms of music and will shortly travel to America for an International Guitar Conference. If your child is interested in learning the guitar starting in Semester 2 please contact me by email for further details or look on the Parent Splash page for information.

IGBIS Instrumental Music Academy Semester 1 Concerts

There will be two concerts this month to celebrate student achievements in Semester 1. On Tuesday 19th January students learning Strings (with Mr Yew Chee), Drums (with Mr Andy) and Piano (with Ms Iko) will perform in the Theatre from 2pm. On Thursday 21st January students who have been learning Voice (with Ms Irma), Guitar (with Mr Adil) and Piano (with Ms Wong) will be performing from 2pm. Parents are invited to come along to these concerts to celebrate their children’s achievements and to meet the tutors.

Mr. Jon Suffolk,
Performing Arts Teacher
Activities Highlights

We are all geared up and ready for Semester 2 Athletics and Activities Sign-Ups from January 11th - 17th, 2016. Semester 2 Activities will run from February 15th - April 22nd, 2016. Before then there are a few activities that are catching up from missed sessions in Semester 1. The make-up schedule will proceed as follows:

Thursday, January 7th
Monday, January 11th
Thursday, January 14th
Monday, January 18th

If your child participated in the paid activities of Swimming Lessons, Karate, Gymnastics, Football or Tennis on Mondays or Thursdays they will be able to attend their regularly scheduled day of lessons on the above dates. Have your child come prepared to participate. Please also arrange bussing and pickup for those days.

Look out for details on the Semester 2 Activities in your inbox very soon. If you have any questions please contact me at jasmine.brawn@igbis.edu.my.

Athletics

Although sign-ups for Semester 2 start next week our teams need to get rolling as our league commitments begin very quickly in February.

Grade 2 - 5 Boys and Girls will be bringing home a sign-up form for soccer which will be conducted on Tuesday and Thursday in Season 2. Until February 15th we will be running Tuesday-only practices beginning January 12th in preparation for our first tournament early in February.

Secondary School Basketball will begin next week with games on Thursday against HELP International School.

Whole School Track & Field and Swim Teams will be running this season as well.

We are looking forward to another exciting season of Athletics at IGBIS!

Ms. Jasmine Brawn,
Athletics & Activities Director

DP Coordinator News

Happy new year to everyone in the IGBIS community. After a busy and productive semester one, it was great for everyone to have a holiday to recharge for the next half of the academic year.

The Grade 11 semester one examinations will take place from January 7 - 13 and will be worth 25% of the semester one grade. Hopefully the Grade 11 students used the Christmas holiday to prepare for these important assessments, and will continue to revise and prepare for their exams during the exam week. There will be no new curriculum content taught to the Grade 11 students during the exam week, so they should use their class time to study and consult their teachers on areas of the curriculum that they need to reinforce before the exams.

The Grade 11 semester one examinations will take place in-class and during regularly scheduled class times. The Grade 11 semester two examinations, which will take place in late May, will be held in more formal exam conditions, and will take place in an exam room and not in-class. This is part of the process for preparing the students for their IBDP exams at the end of Grade 12, and gradually helping them get used to the formal exam process involved with the IBDP examinations.

Grade 12 students will not take semester one examinations, because they will sit for the IBDP mock examinations in late March, which is part of the preparation for the IBDP examinations that take place in May. Grade 12 students are continuing to work on their Internal Assessments and should be planning accordingly to ensure that they meet the academic deadlines outlined on the DP Academic Deadlines document. Upcoming academic deadlines for the Grade 12 students are:

* English A IOC = January 9
* Visual Arts Mock Exam = January 11-15
* Economics, History, Psychology Internal Assessment Draft = January 18-22
* Visual Arts Comparative Study Draft = January 18 - 22

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

Mr. Matthew Marshall,
DP Coordinator